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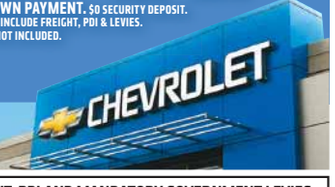

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FRIDAY'S JACKPOT Lotto MAX $30 MILLION estimated

DEVELOPERS: WE WANT SUBWAYS, BUT HOME BUYERS SHOULDN'T SUBSIDIZE THEM {page 3}

BEAUTY BY CHANEL
MAKEUP THAT LOOKS FRESH, NOT KITSCHY {page 34}

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Thursday, March 1, 2012
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Teachers 'insulted' by offer

- Province's proposal would end retirement payouts of unused sick days, which can equal half a year's salary
- Elementary teachers' union says it will not participate in talks scheduled for March 5 and 6 in Toronto

Ontario's public elementary teachers are refusing to bargain with the province after it proposed a zero wage increase as well as an end to retirement payouts of unused sick days.

In the first sign of labour strife that may be on the horizon, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario has taken a tough stance with the government for proposing such cuts, saying it will not participate in talks scheduled for March 5 and 6 in Toronto.

"To say we were insulted is an understatement," says a memo, obtained by the Star, sent to members of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario from president Sam Hammond.

"We find the tone and, most significantly, the content of the government's parameters to be offensive to all ETFO members."

The province's Catholic teachers and public-school secondary teachers remain in talks with the province. However, a bargaining bulletin issued Wednesday by Ken Coran, president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, called the government proposal "an unprecedented attack on members' rights" that is "clearly unacceptable."

"(We) cannot be a party to what amounts to deep and mean-spirited strips to our collective agreements that would negatively affect every member at every stage of their career."
MEMO SENT TO MEMBERS OF ELEMENTARY TEACHERS' FEDERATION OF ONTARIO FROM PRESIDENT SAM HAMMOND

The province, which hopes to wrap up negotiations by mid-March — in time for the budget — has asked all Ontario teachers to agree to a two-year deal that provides no overall salary increase, as well as no wage increase as teachers gain more experience and move up the salary grid.

It says that over the next two years, the grid itself, which bases pay on experience and professional qualifications, should be reformed.

The province's proposal would also end retirement payouts of unused sick days, which can equal half a year's salary, instead allowing teachers six sick days a year with full pay. Those days could not be banked or cashed out on retirement. Any sick days already accumulated would be frozen and paid out at retirement.

Such payouts, originally created as an incentive for teachers to not call in sick, are a huge liability for the province, thought to be at least $2 billion.

TORTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Jade Layton from Australia speaks with an RCMP officer after becoming a Canadian citizen in the Toronto Raptors locker room at the Air Canada Centre on Wednesday. Fifteen new Canadians from 10 countries came together for a special citizenship ceremony hosted by Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment.

ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hoops and dreams: New citizens sworn in at Raptors locker room

Crime bill

Canada's pot stance 'very weird'

- Global Commission on Drug Policy says prohibition, tougher sentences have been discredited {page 8}

Google's new privacy policy now in effect

There are steps you can take to protect your personal information {page 21}

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Politicians to stay at helm of updated TTC board

City council will continue to run the TTC when private citizens are introduced on the Toronto Transit Commission.

On Monday, council is expected to approve expanding the transit board from nine city councillors to 11 members, including five private citizens. A politician would continue to operate as the chair.

"The mayor has given his agreement that it should be an 11-member board, that it should be a majority of councillors," said TTC chair Karen Stintz.

The private-sector members would probably be installed in June, and then the councillors sitting on the TTC could also change.

There has been speculation that a majority of city councillors would move on Monday to oust five of their colleagues from the transit commission — the allies of Mayor Rob Ford who engineered last week's firing of TTC chief general manager Gary Webster.

"Speaking to colleagues on both sides of the fence," Stintz said the agreement to reconstitute the transit commission in June "would be widely accepted." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ TTC chair Karen Stintz

Big. Winners

▶ Gaetan, 51, and JoAnn, 49, Champagne of Hawkesbury, Ont., are presented their $50-million lottery cheque in Toronto Wednesday.

STEPHANIE FINDLAY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

At last, pair collect lotto cheque

The Champagnes won the Lotto Max jackpot on Dec. 30, but waited two agonizing months to collect their prize. As prior Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. ticket retailers, the OLG had to conduct a "routine investigation" into their win. For 12 years, until last Oct. 31 when they sold the shop, the couple owned and ran Jo's Depanneur, a convenience store in Hawkesbury. "They played by the rules," said Tony Bitoni, OLG communications manager. "They identified themselves (as previous store owners) right from the beginning."

Developers won't pay for subway

Builders balk at idea of big charges

A group of influential Toronto developers will come together early next week to discuss ways it can help Mayor Rob Ford build a subway along Sheppard Avenue.

But the one option that's absolutely off the table for them is the thing Ford needs most.

"We will not support increased development charges," said one prominent Toronto developer who, along with about 20 other industry players, gathered at city hall for a hastily called lunchtime meeting with the mayor Wednesday.

"The industry supports subways (but) the mayor cannot build them on the backs of the development industry and future home buyers. The fees would be passed off to them and we're trying to keep housing affordable."

It's a significant blow to the mayor, who is scrambling to save his subway expansion plan and has recently trumpeted development charges as a way to do it.

On March 15, council will decide on a final strategy for the type of transit it wants along Sheppard Avenue, leaving Ford just two weeks to come up with a financial strategy to pay for subway expansion along the north Toronto corridor.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 news

Gadgets in the bedroom are not only affecting sleep; they're also taking a toll on couple's love lives, say sleep experts. Scan code for story.

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Tornadoes and twisters laid waste to the U.S. Midwest Wednesday. Watch at metronews.ca/video.

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Premier defends school after gun drawing

School officials in southwestern Ontario who called authorities after a four-year-old girl drew a picture of her dad holding a gun shouldn't be condemned for their actions, Premier Dalton McGuinty said Wednesday.

The girl's father, Jessie Sansone, was handcuffed, strip-searched and told he was being charged with illegal possession of a firearm. His pregnant wife — at home with their 15-month-old daughter — had to go to the police station while their other three children were interviewed by Family and Children's Services.

Police searched their Kitchener home, but the closest thing they found to a firearm was a toy gun. No charges were laid.

While parents are ultimately responsible for the development of their children, schools and teachers also have an obligation to their students, McGuinty said.

"While it may be difficult for this individual — and I can understand that — it's an opportunity to ... engage ourselves in a very important conversation about where do we draw the line in those kinds of things," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Surgical robot used to treat lung cancer

For the first time in Canada, surgeons at Toronto General Hospital have used a robotic surgical system to treat early-stage lung cancer by removing the cancer, along with the lobe of the lung, from a 78-year-old man.

The surgery was done in October, when about one third of Stanley Skorpid's upper right lung was removed through a small incision measuring about three centimetres.

Skorpid was back at the hospital on Wednesday for a checkup and remains cancer-free, paving the way for future surgeries.

"There was nothing to it," said Skorpid, during his second checkup since the operation.

"There was no pain and the incisions are so small."

Skorpid's family doctor detected the lung cancer in September.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A source of empowerment

Sister 2 Sister is a day-long conference drawing 200 Grade 8 girls from Regent Park

LESLIE FERENC/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Nashauna Bethel, left, and Anya Ryan, both 13 and in Grade 8 at Queen Alexandra Middle School, are among 200 girls who attended Sister 2 Sister.

"I don't need a prince to rescue me." Great title for a self-defence workshop for girls learning to step out of their comfort zones, take the reins and change the world.

Participant Nashauna Bethel is ready to be a leader.

"I think it's important for me to be here because I know I am somebody," she said. "I'm learning that I have the power to do anything I want. I have the ability to do what I want."

The Grade 8 student at Queen Alexandra Middle School, who plans to become a doctor, was among 200 girls from five downtown schools attending Sister 2 Sister, a day-long leadership conference for teens living in and around Regent Park.

This was more than girl talk. It was a way of helping girls gain insight into their community, connecting them with mentors and reinforcing the idea that there are no limits on their aspirations.

Other girls-only workshops looked at challenges teenage girls face and how to deal with the realities of peer pressure, bullying and body image.

Learning how to get out of a bind and, more important, how not to get into one in the first place peaked Nashauna's interest in self-defence.

"You never know what could happen," she said, as she headed to the class to practice her moves.

Schoolmate Anya Ryan, also 13, nodded in agreement. "I wish I had signed up for this workshop," she said as she watched the girls who were learning that an elbow can be most useful in a pinch. The girls were taking their lesson seriously.

It's the kind of determination Anya admires in her role models, who include her mom, Sandra Ryan, Mother Teresa and pop star Selena Gomez. Unlike Hollywood's bad girls, Gomez "hasn't messed up," said Anya, who added that taking part in the conference was a good experience.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gender gap

Regent Park. Sister 2 Sister was established in 2009 to fill in gaps in Regent Park, where there were plenty of programs for boys but not girls, said Jodi Burton, a community support worker with the Toronto District School Board program Model Schools for Inner Cities.

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7 jurors chosen in Stafford murder trial

Michael Rafferty pleads not guilty to charges Trial expected to begin Monday if all jurors selected this week

Seven people were chosen Wednesday to serve on a jury in the trial of a man accused in the death of eight-year-old Victoria "Tori" Stafford.

Michael Rafferty, 31, was formally arraigned Wednesday and pleaded not guilty to charges of first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

Dressed in a three-piece suit, Rafferty stood looking out at the jury pool and said he was ready for his trial.

"That is correct," he said as his pleas were read back to him.

Five women and two men have been selected so far as lawyers seek to choose a jury of 12 people and two alternates.

Hundreds of people were called for jury selection in Rafferty's trial, and all but 116 were excused Monday and Tuesday for various financial, medical and travel reasons.

The remaining 116 were organized into five groups, with two groups facing the second stage of jury selection Wednesday. The last three groups return Thursday.

HANDOUT

▶ Tori Stafford

Superior Court Judge Thomas Heeney explained to the assembled potential jurors Wednesday morning that they would each be asked a series of pre-determined questions.

Crown and defence lawyers get a set number of challenges, which they can use to reject a potential juror without giving a reason.

The trial is expected to start Monday if all jurors and alternates can be selected this week.

Case history

- Tori disappeared while on her way home from school in Woodstock on April 8, 2009, and her body was found three months later.
- Terri-Lynne McClintic, now 21, has already been convicted of first-degree murder in the girl's death.

Potential jurors have been told the trial is expected to last between two and a half to three months, possibly extending into June. Most weeks the trial will sit Tuesday to Friday. Because of the time commitment and the nature of the case, Heeney raised the amount of compensation jurors will get.

In most trials in Ontario jurors are paid $40 a day if they sit longer than 10 days, and from the 50th day onward they get $100 a day. For this trial jurors will receive $40 a day from the outset, rising to $100 a day starting on the 25th day.

During the trial the jury is set to visit the site where Tori's body was found.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cover. Band

▶ After performing to more than 50,000 fans in the United Kingdom in 2011, Brit Floyd — recognized as the world's best Pink Floyd cover band — will storm the Sony Centre on Thursday with their show A Foot in the Door.

HANDOUT

Just like going to see Pink Floyd

Brit Floyd has been embraced by Floyd fans worldwide for its note-for-note perfection and unique Floydian animation. The show will also include a 23-minute rendition of Echoes, from Floyd's classic 1971 album, Meddle.

Tory corporate tax cut motion fails

A Progressive Conservative bid to shame the governing Liberals into cutting corporate taxes has failed.

Tory Leader Tim Hudak's motion to continue a planned reduction in the rate was defeated Wednesday when Grits and New Democrats voted it down 64-36. Hudak said he wants the 11.5 per cent tax to decrease to 11 per cent this summer before dropping to 10 per cent in July 2013 "to help get the nearly 600,000 unemployed Ontarians working again."

While Premier Dalton McGuinty declined to say if the scheduled cut would be delayed, the Liberals have a $16-billion deficit to eliminate and cannot afford the annual loss in revenue of $800 million to $875 million.

"Take a look at the record in terms of what we have done. We have effectively reduced the tax on new business in Ontario by one half," McGuinty said.

"So we've reduced corporate taxes a few times already, we've eliminated capital taxes, reduced small business taxes, adopted the HST. None of those measures were supported by the opposition, by the way."

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Luminaries urge Harper to reconsider Bill C-10

Open letter to PM asks Canada to stop pursuing 'destructive, expensive and ineffective' prohibition of pot Aimed at Tories' omnibus crime bill

LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES FOR THE RECORDING ACADEMY

▶ Sir Richard Branson, left, seen accepting a merit award during a pre-Grammys gala in his honour on February 11 in Beverly Hills, is one of the signatories in a letter urging Canada to stop the proposed implementation of mandatory prison sentences for minor cannabis-related offences.

The Global Commission on Drug Policy says it's "very weird" that Canada is taking a tougher line on marijuana when governments across the globe are reconsidering the war on drugs.

Louise Arbour, a former Supreme Court of Canada judge; former Brazilian president Fernando Cardoso; former Swiss president Ruth Dreifuss; and Virgin Group founder Sir Richard Branson are among the signatories to the letter sent Wednesday from the Brazil-based commission. It warns Canada is repeating "the same grave mistakes as other countries."

"Building more prisons, tried for decades in the United States under its failed war on drugs, only deepens the drug problem and does not reduce cannabis supply or rates of use."
EXCERPT FROM LETTER TO PM HARPER

The commission includes an ideological cross-section of world leaders.

Their reservations are not theoretical, but are aimed directly at the Conservative government's crime bill currently nearing passage in the Senate.

The letter states that "with the proposed implementation of mandatory prison sentences for minor cannabis-related offences under Bill C-10, Canada is at the threshold of continuing to repeat the same grave mistakes as other countries, moving further down a path that has proven immensely destructive and ineffective at meeting its objectives." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian doctor charged in $375M US health fraud

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

▶ A sign outside offices of Medistat Group Associates in DeSoto, Texas.

A Canadian doctor in Texas has been charged with running a massive health-care fraud scheme with thousands of fraudulent patients and intermediaries allegedly offering cash, food stamps or free groceries, to bilk Medicare and Medicaid of nearly $375 million US.

A federal indictment unsealed Tuesday charges Jacques Roy, a doctor who owned Medistat Group Associates in DeSoto, Texas, and six others in an alleged scheme to bill Medicare for home health services that were not properly billed, not medically necessary or not done.

The scheme was the largest dollar amount by a single doctor uncovered by a task force on Medicare fraud, authorities said.

U.S. Attorney Sarah Saldana accused Roy of "selling his signature" to home health agencies that rounded up thousands of patients' names and billed Medicare and Medicaid for five years.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROBOCALLS

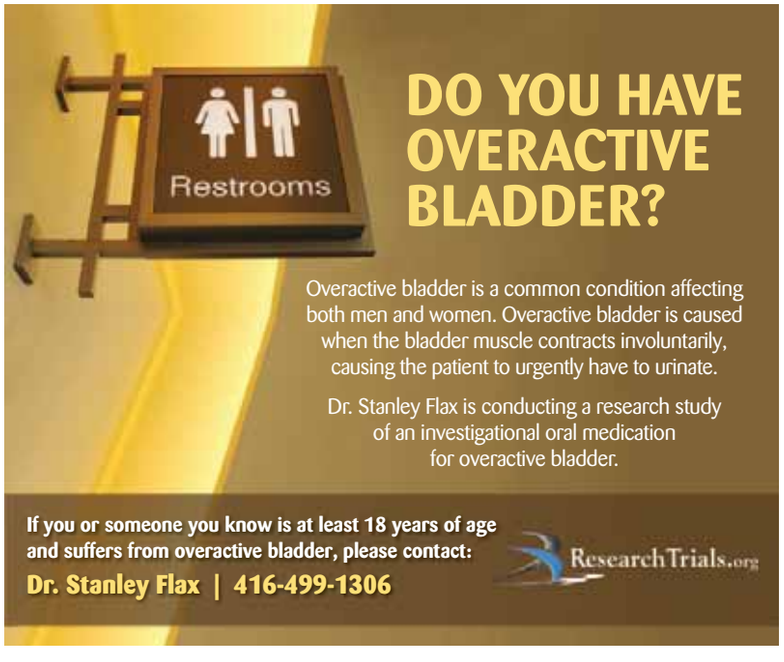
We had no part in this: PM

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says allegations the Conservatives were behind misleading and harassing calls to voters in the last federal election are nothing but a smear campaign by the NDP and Liberals.

Harper told the House of Commons the Conservatives Party "can say absolutely and definitely it has no role in this."

Elections Canada is investigating reports that voters in Guelph, Ont., received calls from a phone number with a 450 area code.

The callers directed them to the wrong polling station.
THE CANADIAN PRESS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U.S. navy plans new super-gun

High-range, rapid-firing weapon would be used on warships

A super-powerful gun that shoots rounds more than 160 kilometres away — at several times the speed of sound — is in development for U.S. navy warships.

The weapon is known as an electromagnetic rail gun. It consists of parallel rails and uses a magnetic field and electric current, instead of chemicals, to generate energy to fire the rounds.

The navy says an industry-built prototype of the gun is being tested at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division in northern Virginia.

The 12.19-metre-long gun isn't expected to be ready till 2017, and it could take several more years after that before it is put on ships.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top gun

- **The U.S. navy has been** developing the weapon since 2005 at a cost of about $240 million US.
- **Navy researchers say they** need to ensure that the roughly 18-kilogram metal projectile that the gun will fire can withstand the heat and G-forces from the launch.
- **They say the weapon's** high speed and range would allow ships to provide support for marines storming a beach. It could also target enemy ships and defend against cruise and ballistic missiles.

Clash. Over cuts

▶ A student runs for cover during a demonstration in Barcelona on Wednesday.

DAVID RAMOS/GETTY IMAGES

Barcelona austerity protest turns violent

Police beat and arrested youth, rioters smashed windows and fires were lit in the streets of Barcelona as a student protest against budget cuts boiled over. Many young adults fear they have no future in the country and are angry at the new conservative government, which is enacting widespread austerity measures to prevent the country from being forced into a bailout such as those taken by Greece, Ireland and Portugal.

Massive asteroid headed to Earth?

A "high risk" asteroid could be on a collision course with Earth, astronomers at the Mount Lemmon observatory in Arizona say. The scientists discovered the asteroid, which they call 2001 AG5, in January 2011. It is only 140 metres wide, not extinction size, but could wipe out a big city, they say. NASA says more observation is needed to confirm the rock is on a direct collision course with Earth, but astronomers have called for discussion on how it might be deflected. METRO

625

Astronomers say asteroid 2001 AG5 has a one-in-625 chance of hitting Earth in 2040.

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Storms ravage U.S. Midwest

At least 12 killed, dozens injured after deadly tornadoes slam region

A pre-dawn twister flattened entire blocks of homes in a small Illinois town Wednesday as violent storms ravaged the Midwest and South, killing at least 12 people in three states.

Winds also ripped through the country music mecca of Branson, Mo., damaging some of the city's famous theatres just days before the start of the busy tourist season.

The storm that blasted Harrisburg in southern Illinois, killing six, was an EF4, the second-highest rating given to twisters based on damage. Scientists said it was 200 yards wide with winds up to 170 mph.

By midday, townspeople in the community of 9,000 were sorting through piles of debris and remembering their dead while the winds still howled around them.

"The theatre next to me kind of exploded ... It went everywhere. Power lines are down. Windows are blown out."
BRANSON DINER OWNER

Three people were reported killed in eastern Tennessee — two in Cumberland County and another in DeKalb County — as storms collapsed homes and downed power lines there.

The twisters were spawned by a powerful storm system that blew down from the Rockies on Tuesday and was headed toward the East Coast.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DARRIN PHEGLEY/THE GLEANER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Kendra McKinley pulls a flag from the debris of her grandparents' home in Henderson, Ky.

Fishing vessel delays Costa Allegra rescue, official says

A disabled cruise ship called Costa Allegra will spend an extra 10 to 12 hours at sea without electricity, air conditioning or toilet facilities because a French fishing vessel that was first to respond to the drifting cruiser refused to give way to faster tug boats, a Seychelles government official said Wednesday.

A spokesman for the cruise line denied that the tow would have been faster with the tugs and said the disabled cruise ship was always scheduled to reach the Seychelles' main port on Thursday.

The government minister, Joel Morgan, said that the cruise ship likely would have arrived in port Wednesday night local time if the tugs had been allowed to take over.

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MAXIM SHIPENKOV/POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Vladimir Putin

Putin warns of a rumble

Russian presidential candidate predicts unsanctioned post-election protests will result in violence

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin warned that his opponents could provoke unrest after Sunday's presidential election, even going so far as killing a prominent opposition figure to stoke outrage against his government.

Putin is all but certain to regain the presidency, but his allegations Wednesday reflect heightened tensions four days before the vote and nervousness about the protests expected to follow.

"They are looking among well-known people for a sacrificial victim," said Putin. "They could, I'm sorry, knock someone off and then blame the authorities."

Evidence of widespread vote-rigging in favour of Putin's party in December's parliamentary election set off a series of protests to demand an end to Putin's 12-year rule.

The opposition is pushing authorities to allow a post-election protest at a site close to the Kremlin. The government has refused the demand, offering other more distant locations instead.

The organizers have rejected that offer, raising the threat of violence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Volunteers to monitor the vote

30,000
The estimated number of complaints filed after Russia's last parliamentary election.

Until a few months ago, Sergei Rassypnov, a real-estate agent, cared little about politics and Vladmir Putin.

That all changed in December, when evidence of rampant election fraud by Putin's party triggered a wave of protests. Suddenly, for legions of urban Russians, apathy and indifference was transformed into a startling new activism.

Today, Rassypnov is among tens of thousands of Russians who have signed up to monitor this Sunday's presidential election, in which Prime Minister Putin aims to reclaim the presidency he held for eight years. Most are volunteering for the first time, no longer willing to tolerate a situation in which people have little confidence their vote will be counted honestly. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Legend. Lost

▶ Pop music group The Monkees, clockwise from top left, Peter Tork, Mickey Dolenz, Mike Nesmith and Davy Jones, are shown in this 1966 photo.

HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Monkees frontman dies

Davy Jones, the heartthrob singer who helped propel the made-for-TV rock band The Monkees to the top of the pop charts as an American version of The Beatles, died of a heart attack Wednesday. He was 66. Born in Manchester, England, Jones had stylishly long hair, boyish good looks and a British accent that endeared him to legions of screaming young fans.

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N. Korea suspends nuclear activities

North Korea has agreed to suspend uranium enrichment and nuclear and long-range missile tests in a breakthrough in negotiations with the United States, which is set to provide food aid in return.

The rare simultaneous announcements in Pyongyang and Washington pointed toward an easing of nuclear tensions under new leader Kim Jong-un.

It could also clear the way for the resumption of multi-nation disarmament-for-aid talks that North Korea withdrew from in 2009.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charges pending in free-baby prank

U.S. police say charges are pending against a teenager in Mississippi for pulling a prank on a friend when he advertised a free baby on Craigslist using the friend's cellphone number as the contact information.

Police Chief Don Byington would not identify the youth involved, but told The Clarion-Ledger that the posting was "a bad practical joke."

Byington says the 18-year-old took a photo of an unknown baby boy and placed the ad on Craigslist.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Khadr heading north?

Report claims Canadian convicted of terrorism to be moved to Kingston

JANET HAMLIN, POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Omar Khadr

Is Canadian Omar Khadr destined to leave the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to serve the remainder of his sentence in Guantanamo North?

A report this week in Montreal's LaPresse stated that the 25-year-old Toronto-born Khadr will be imprisoned at Millhaven immigration centre in Kingston, derisively dubbed Guantanamo North.

The $3.2-million, six-bunk facility was built in 2006 to house non-Canadian terrorism suspects held on controversial national security certificates.

Despite its name, and aside from the isolation, the Millhaven facility is hardly comparable to the Guantanamo cell where Khadr is now — or many of Canada's federal prisons where he could be held.

As Hassan Almrei, who was held there before a federal court judge dismissed his case, said in a 2007 interview: "I'm lucky to be detained in this country. I'm not denying that. (But) they're not talking about the colour of the clothes, it's the principle. The principle of Guantanamo Bay."

"No one has told Omar, or us, anything about when he can expect to be transferred."
KHADR'S LAWYER JOHN NORRIS

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Prehistoric. Bird

▶ This undated graphic illustration released by the University of Otago on Wednesday shows a Kairuku, or giant penguin.

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giant penguin on display

Experts from New Zealand and the United States have reconstructed the fossil skeleton of a giant penguin — from roughly 26 million years ago — for the first time, revealing long wings, a slender build and a spearlike bill that have it being described as one elegant bird.

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Asbestos industry wants help

The Canadian asbestos sector wants Ottawa's help in challenging a World Health Organization estimate that says asbestos-related diseases kill more than 100,000 people worldwide every year.

A leading industry player, Bernard Coulombe, says the estimate is an exaggeration. He wants the Canadian government to urge the Geneva-based organization to provide scientific proof behind the statistic.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Market moment

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Stepping. Down

▶ James Murdoch, 39, is the son of media mogul Rupert Murdoch.

SANG TAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

Younger Murdoch resigns

James Murdoch, the executive at the epicentre of the phone-hacking scandal at his father's British newspapers, is stepping down as executive chairman of News Corp.'s U.K. newspaper arm.

Student job centres cut

Government says students can look for work online at youth.gc.ca

Summer student job centres run by the federal human resources department will not open this spring for the first time in nearly 40 years, a spokesperson has confirmed. The department is quietly axing the centres, saying more students prefer to use the Internet to search for work.

The moves come as the youth unemployment rate continues to hover around 14.5 per cent, nearly double the average jobless rate for all Canadians. The centres themselves were a source of employment as university students were hired to staff them.

"There is no longer the need for these seasonal, temporary locations to be established."

FEDERAL HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON ALYSON QUEEN

The Canadian Federation of Students, which represents more than half a million students at 80 schools, said the decision to cut the summer youth employment centres is worrisome.

"Students are facing increasing challenges," said the federation's national chairperson Roxanne Dubois. "We're going into debt to pay very high tuition fees and we're facing very high unemployment rates." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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PETER PARKS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Apple logo in a Shanghai shop. Apple is the sixth U.S. corporation to reach the $500-billion milestone.

Apple soars to $500B mark

Shares milestone with Microsoft, Exxon, Cisco, Intel, General Electric

Apple's market capitalization topped $500 billion US in opening trading Wednesday, climbing to a mountain peak where few companies have ventured — and none have stayed for long. Apple was already the world's most valuable company. The gap between it and No. 2 Exxon Mobil Corp. has widened rapidly, as investors have digested Apple's report of blow-out holiday-season sales of iPhones and iPads. More recently, Apple has raised investors' hopes that it might institute a dividend. Its market capitalization climbed near US$508 billion as shares rose $8.76, or 1.6 per cent, to $544.17. On Tuesday, Apple sent out invites for an event next Wednesday, apparently to reveal its next iPad.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google gets to know you a little bit better

Google's motto is "Don't be evil." But why take chances?

The tech behemoth's new unified privacy policy takes effect Thursday, meaning all the information Google collects about you on its platforms will be put into one database so advertisers can get a better idea of consumer patterns and behaviour. Before the change, search histories and sites visited were kept apart from details Google gathered about you.

Now, all the data is consolidated on a server so Google can treat you as a single user across Google+ and YouTube, Gmail and Google search. Only, as Electronic Frontier Foundation points out, just looking at search terms can reveal information about your age, sex, sexual orientation, health, location, religion and other personal stuff.

Alma Whitten, Google's director of privacy for products and engineering, says the move is about helping consumers. "We're not altering any of your privacy settings ... We just want to use the information you already trust us with to make your experience better," wrote Whitten. Still, the only way to escape entirely is to stop using Google and family.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Protect privacy

- **The deadline for purging** search history is over, but you can keep your personal data safe online, short of deleting your Google account and flushing your Android phone.
- **Don't put personal information** (name, credit card number, address, social insurance number) in your search engine.
- **Don't login to your search engine** — sign out of Gmail or Google+ before searching.
- **There are also alternative** search engines available — like Duck Duck Go, which has a no-tracking policy.
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WHEN IN DOUBT, AD LIB

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

I'm just talking off the top of my head here, but I miss performing improv comedy.

Writing humour is satisfying, sure — especially that special moment when you see your name ~~on a paycheque~~ in a newspaper. But the delayed, distant feedback can make you feel like you have fewer readers than the iTunes service agreement.

In contrast, and as Mitt Romney would tell you, there's no greater thrill than the instant response you receive when you get on stage and make stuff up.

If you're not aware, improvisation is a form of theatre that has spawned many comedic troupes, some serious theatre, certain art-house films and the Iraq war.

Generally, the idea is simply to make things up on the spot, often with an audience suggestion, which in theory can be absolutely anything, but which in practice is always "sex," "horny," "circus," "bus stop" or "spatula."

If that sounds like kids' stuff, rest assured there are some deep lessons to be learned.

"When you accept what the scene gives you and don't try too hard, then everything that happens is 'right,' the possibilities are endless and things naturally fall into place. There's a lesson in there somewhere."

For instance, one of the improv rules you organically discover is "Don't try to be funny." Some would argue I've mastered that.

But the point is that humour should arise from strong characters and a well-told story. When you tell a conventional punchline joke during improv the audience reply is a rising-then-falling "aaAAAaah" sound, which means "Clever. Not funny. But clever. Now be funny."

Another improv life lesson, perhaps the most important one, is to accept what the world gives you.

If another actor turned to you on stage and said, "Hi, Donald Trump!" then your natural, human reaction would be to punch him in the throat. But improv teaches you that scenes work best if you accept every suggestion — so you scowl in a Trumpian manner and wonder what it must be like to know that even a billion dollars isn't enough for a decent hairpiece.

When you accept what the scene gives you and don't try too hard, then everything that happens is "right," the possibilities are endless, and things naturally fall into place. There's a lesson in there somewhere.

Improv is fun, challenging and, yes, can give you a better outlook on life. I think you should try it.

And if you don't have the energy or gumption or whatever excuse you're using not to do it, just remember what an audience member once told me during an introspective moment: "Horny!"

Words to live by.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

The Junos are set for April 1. With William Shatner as host, will you be watching?

60% NO. SOUNDS LIKE AN APRIL FOOL'S JOKE

40% YES. BEAM ME UP!

Local tweets

- **@the_sandracula:** I wouldn't feel so ripped off by the Go Transit fare increase if someone checked my ticket more than once a month. #toronto #gotransit
- **@K_Duong:** I am one Canadian who supports the criminalization of #bullying.
- **@RyanMMM:** If Harper used #robocalls, is he the Optimus Prime Minister or is he more of a Decepticon? #cdnpoli
- **@abitofgrit:** Can't 4 the life of me figure out why Vic Toews wants 2 keep Vikileaks in news cycle. Feel like he's better letting it fade out. #cdnpoli
- **@JordanAGlass:** The principle of free and fair elections is one of our democracy's most fundamental rights. | #CdnPoli #RoboCalls #Toronto #Willowdale #CPC
- **@MaestroFreshWes:** Damn. I'm gonna miss #HinesWard playing for #Steelers. Dis is worse than Emmitt not playing for #cowboys. He's black&yellow 4 life though

Daily Zoom

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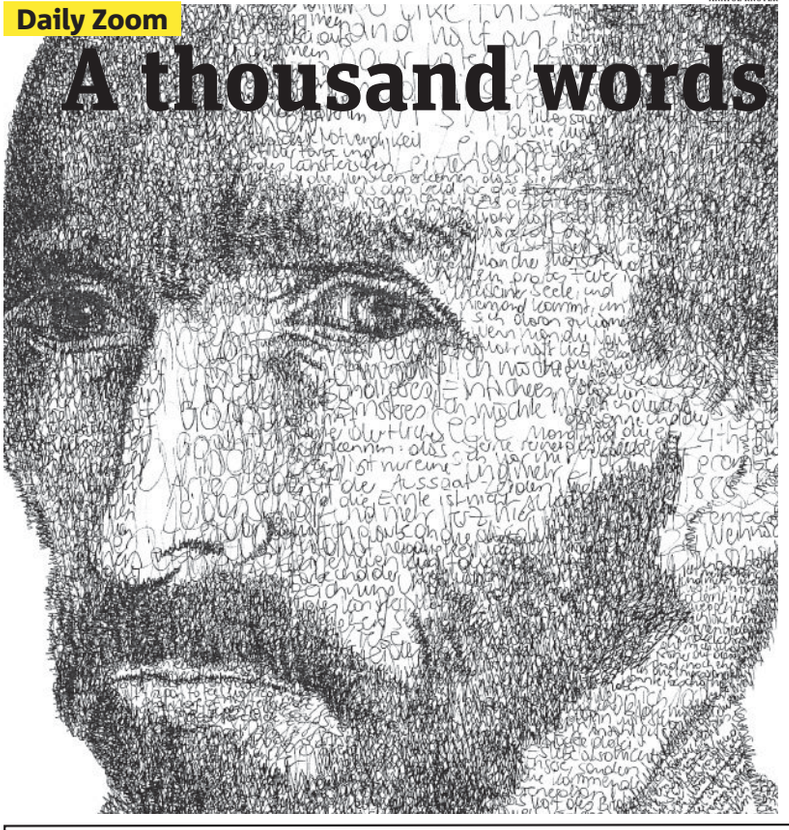

Artist 'writes' famous portraits

PORTRAITURE. This sketch of the great Vincent van Gogh can speak for itself. Artist Anatol Knotek creates faces composed from his own handwriting. Knotek, whose works allude to 1960s avant-garde poetry, has also "written" stunning portraits of Bob Dylan, Pablo Picasso and Nobel Prize laureate Hermann Hesse. MWN

▶ Anatol Knotek

60 seconds

Anatol Knotek, 34, artist from Vienna

What's the idea behind your "handwritten" portraits?
They're meant to blur the borders between poetry and fine art. For me, it's a type of communication, pairing the act of writing and the art of painting. It's "visual poetry."

What do you write?
A mixture of my own writing and words associated with the person I'm drawing. In this portrait, I used some passages taken from van Gogh's letters. I also added some sentences from Theo van Gogh's letter to his mother that reported his famous brother's death.

And how do you write your drawings?
I first make the sketch with a pencil and then I begin the writing process with a permanent felt-tip pen. I use small, simple words for the details, then larger letters for the overall appearance. It can take about two weeks to do one such portrait.

What inspired your work?
Concrete poetry — poetic verses that are arranged in a shape or pattern for added visual effect.

ANTHONY JOHNSTON/MWN

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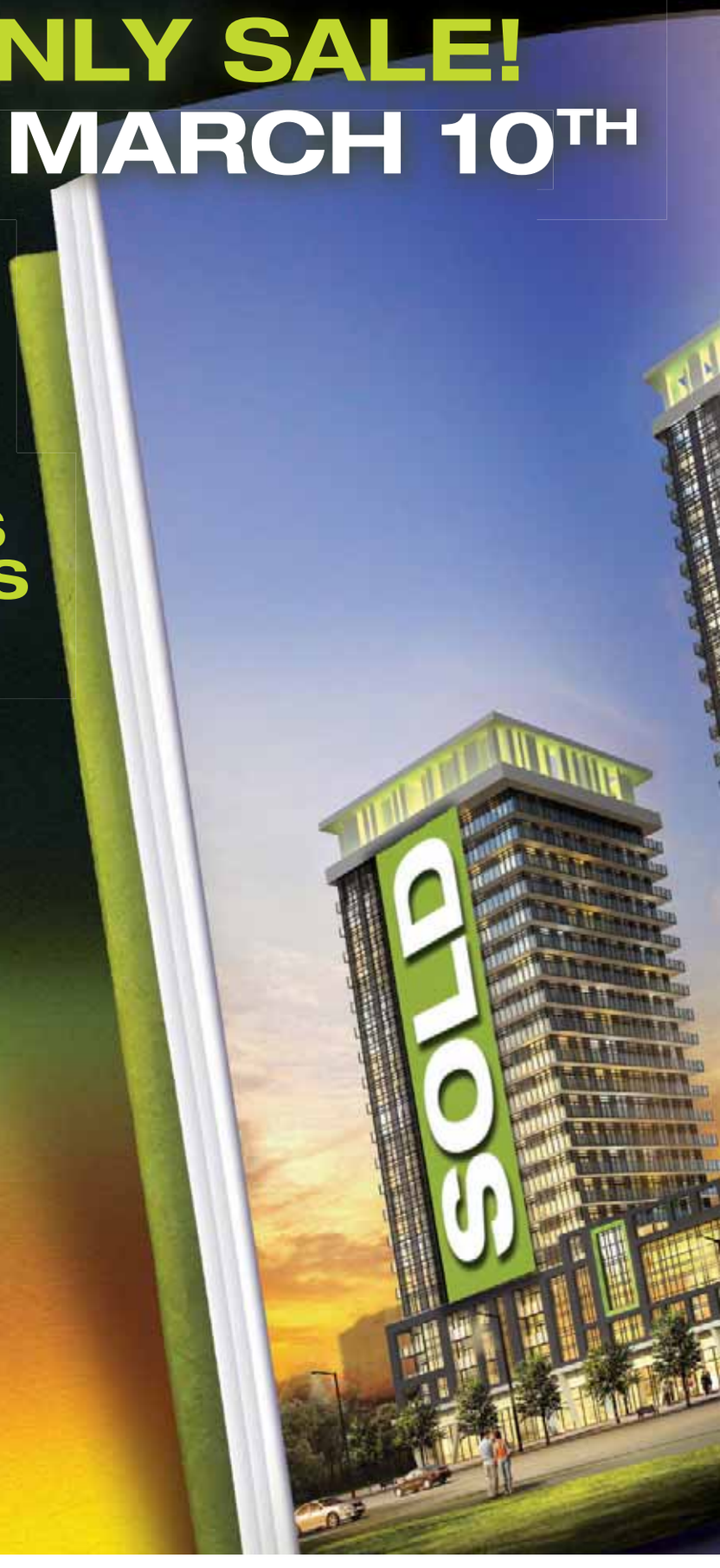

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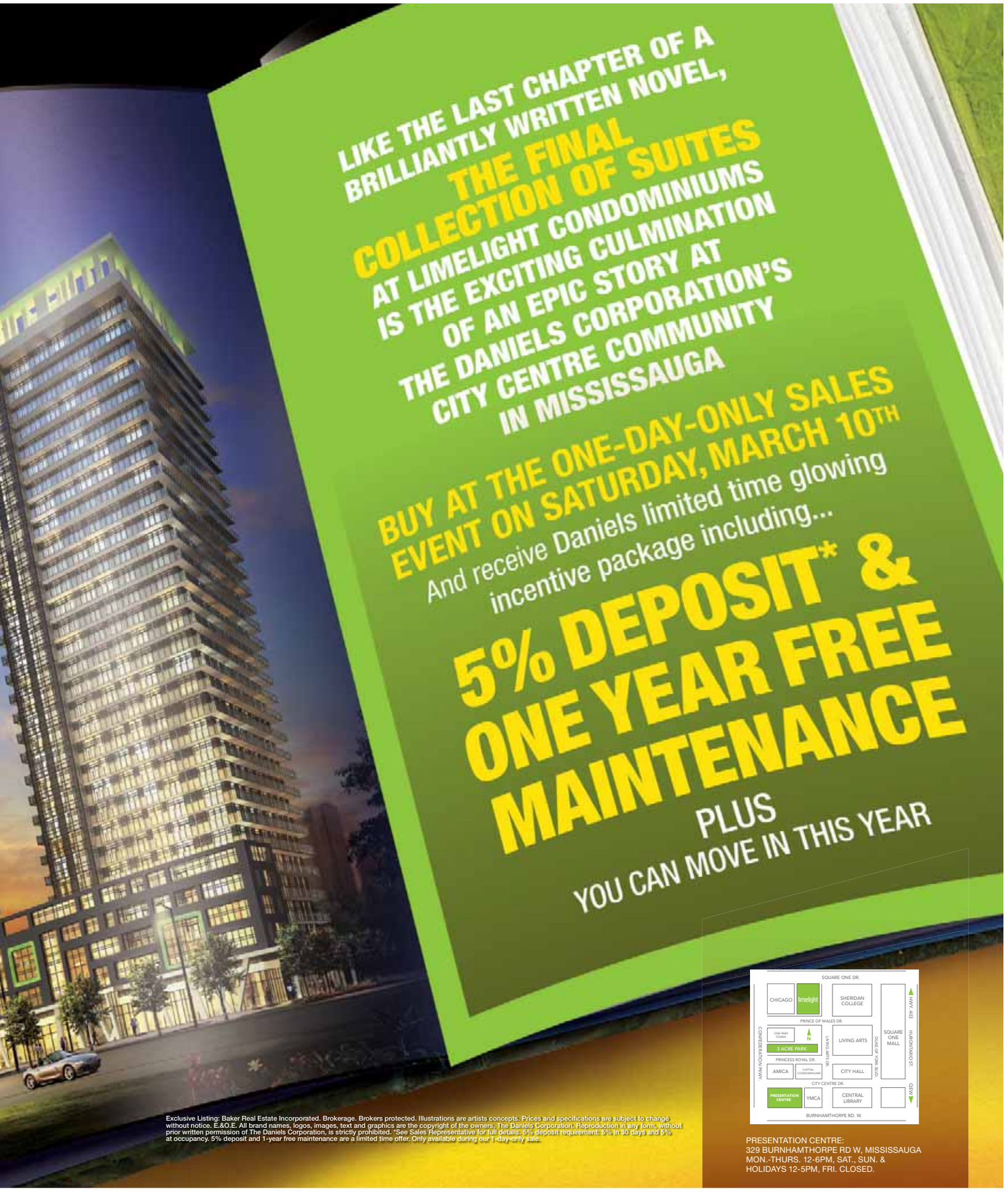
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GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Beauties will be performing at the Juno Concert Series.

2 scene

Celebrating Canadian music

The Juno Concert series returns to the Horseshoe Tavern • Check out the band on Saturday

BACKSTAGE PASS

IAN GORMELY
METRO TORONTO

The Junos might have moved on to Ottawa this year, but that doesn't mean that Toronto has to miss out on all the fun.

This Saturday sees a return of the Juno Concert Series to the Horseshoe Tavern.

"It's a celebration of Canadian music," says Chris Topping, VP Events and Special Programming, "Canadian bands playing Canadian music."

Topping's seemingly simplistic explanation isn't far from the truth. Like last year's Juno Decades series, this year's event gathers some of the best and brightest in Canadian music, including Jason Collett and members of Cuff the Duke, and sees them perform covers of the music that inspired them.

"You start with a couple of anchors," says Topping explaining how these shows come together.

In Saturday's case, he found three in the Arkells, the Beauties and the Order of Good Cheer who will operate as the evening's house bands, backing up whoever happens to be on stage.

"You need bands to be good at what they do," he says. They'll have to learn eight to ten songs and they have ready to collaborate.

From there, he and the night's co-presenters over at North By North East work their networks to round out the bill.

But, he says, "a lot of the bands have a lot to do with bringing guests out themselves."

Choosing songs to cover is probably the most difficult part.

"It's a lot of fun hearing these artists think about (the other) artists that they want to cover."

Without giving too much away, Topping hinted that fans are likely to hear takes on everything from Joel Plaskett to Neil Young to Loverboy.

"There are all sorts of amazing nuggets in our Canadian music catalogue."

The Juno Concert Series takes place on Sat, Mar. 3 at the Horseshoe Tavern (370 Queen St. W.)

The show kicks off at 9 p.m. Tickets are $20.

Inspiration

The inspiration for the concert series came from another retrospective of Canadian music.

▶ **Quote** "I was watching the Nicholas Jennings documentaries," says Topping, referring to the director's trilogy of films, each focusing on a different decade. "I love watching all these Canadian artists talk about other Canadian artists. I wanted the musical version."

Oprah

Oprah Winfrey is bringing her life lessons north of the border for a TV event sure to rank among her Canadian fans' favourite things. The 58-year-old TV legend has added Toronto as the latest stop on Oprah's Lifeclass Tour. A portion of the day-long event will be broadcast live on April 16 on the talk giant's network, OWN.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reese talks to her kids about abuse

Actress Reese Witherspoon has had the talk with her two young children.

Not the sex talk.

The domestic violence talk.

As a Global Ambassador for Avon's efforts to help victims of domestic violence, Witherspoon travelled to the Washington area to speak to the 2nd World Conference of Women's Shelters, prompting a talk with Ava, 12, and Deacon, 8.

Though her kids were shocked to hear how one in three women is abused in this country, Witherspoon said it was important for them to be aware of the problem especially her daughter who's almost old enough date.

At a time when bullies are responding with violence, Witherspoon also says parents must educate themselves and their children about social media and "what constitutes harassment, what is acceptable and what is not."

Witherspoon says talking publicly "creates empowerment" among women and helps them feel they're not alone. She said it often gives them the courage to go to a shelter or take legal action that could save their lives.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACQUELYN MARTIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Reese Witherspoon

Musical 'Carrie' becomes the third high-profile re-imagined work in New York this season

DeVito goes global

For The Lorax, actor took on the task of recording voices in four foreign languages

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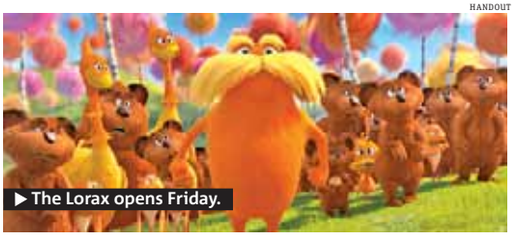

▶ The Lorax opens Friday.

quite the multilinguist — or at least that's what it looks like. For his new film, The Lorax, DeVito took on the unprecedented task of recording foreign versions of the movie in Spanish, Italian, German and Russian. It turned out to be a much more monumental task than he'd expected, though. "It's a fun thing, but it's time-consuming. I thought it was going to be like a couple of days. I'll do German in a couple days. Right! It's more like a week," he admits.

"This is the thing, I don't speak any of those languages. I speak a tiny bit of Italian, but I did it all with coaches and phonetically," DeVito explains. "What I would do is tackle one at a time. And Universal brought in people from the country because sometimes the lines were very long. And there was no way for me in German or in Russian to get through that entire line without messing up some intonation. And I really wanted it to capture the performance."

The process of recording each language took about five days in a recording studio for DeVito and his advisers, and the biggest lesson he learned in that time was that he should've kept things simpler when recording the English version. "There are about 90 lines of mine in the movie, and some of them sometimes you can't break them up," he explains. "If you're saying something like, 'Didn't you see me come out of that stump with all the lightning and the thunder and this and the that?' ... Well, I didn't think I was going to be doing this when I said those lines back then and didn't spit in the middle."

Sustainability

- DeVito says the message of the film is about being responsible while succeeding in business. "...The idea is that if we're going to take the goods from the earth ... we should think about the sustainability of it."

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Awake blurs reality lines

New drama has viewers guessing what's a dream and what's real life

Awake has the kind of intricate, high-concept premise that can test viewers. But that's nothing compared with what its producers face.

Howard Gordon, a master at juggling challenging plots (24 and The X-Files among them), puts it flatly: "I learned nothing, and nothing I experienced prepared for me this."

"This is a vehicle that no one has driven before and has no operating instructions," said Gordon, who produces Awake with its creator, Kyle Killen.

The series, debuting 10 p.m. EST today on Global, stars Jason Isaacs as police detective Michael Britten, a man living in two worlds. A car accident has claimed a family member's life: his wife, Hannah (Laura Allen), in one, and his teenage son, Rex (Dylan Minnette), in another.

The duality extends to Britten's work, where he investigates cases with two partners (Steve Harris, Wilmer Valderrama), and discovers that straddling different realities gives him crime-busting insights.

While other TV shows with parallel universes and outcomes have dabbled in extreme explanations — quick, explain Lost again — Gordon and Killen insist this is a (relatively) simple case of a guy living one life and dreaming another.

Britten and the audience are just not sure which is which. Neither are the therapists who are treating him, with both assuring him that his OTHER life is the dream. He's unwilling to give up the balancing act that allows him to keep hold of both wife and son.

"At the centre of it is the question we all live with as people, which is how do we face loss and how do we live in the face of loss," Gordon said.

The detective wears coloured wristbands to keep his lives straight. Isaacs insists viewers have it easier.

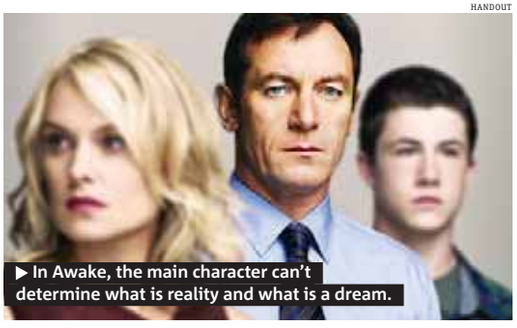
When the pilot was being developed, he said, there was concern that the idea was so tricky, his character might need to be bearded in one world and beardless in the other to help viewers distinguish between them.

"But my daughter, who's 5, told me the story in three sentences," Isaacs recalled. "So I told the producers, 'We don't need to worry.' It's such a powerful and imaginative premise."

Besides, he said, anytime his character is confused, "It's great drama: 'What's happening today? What's happening in this world?"'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HANDOUT



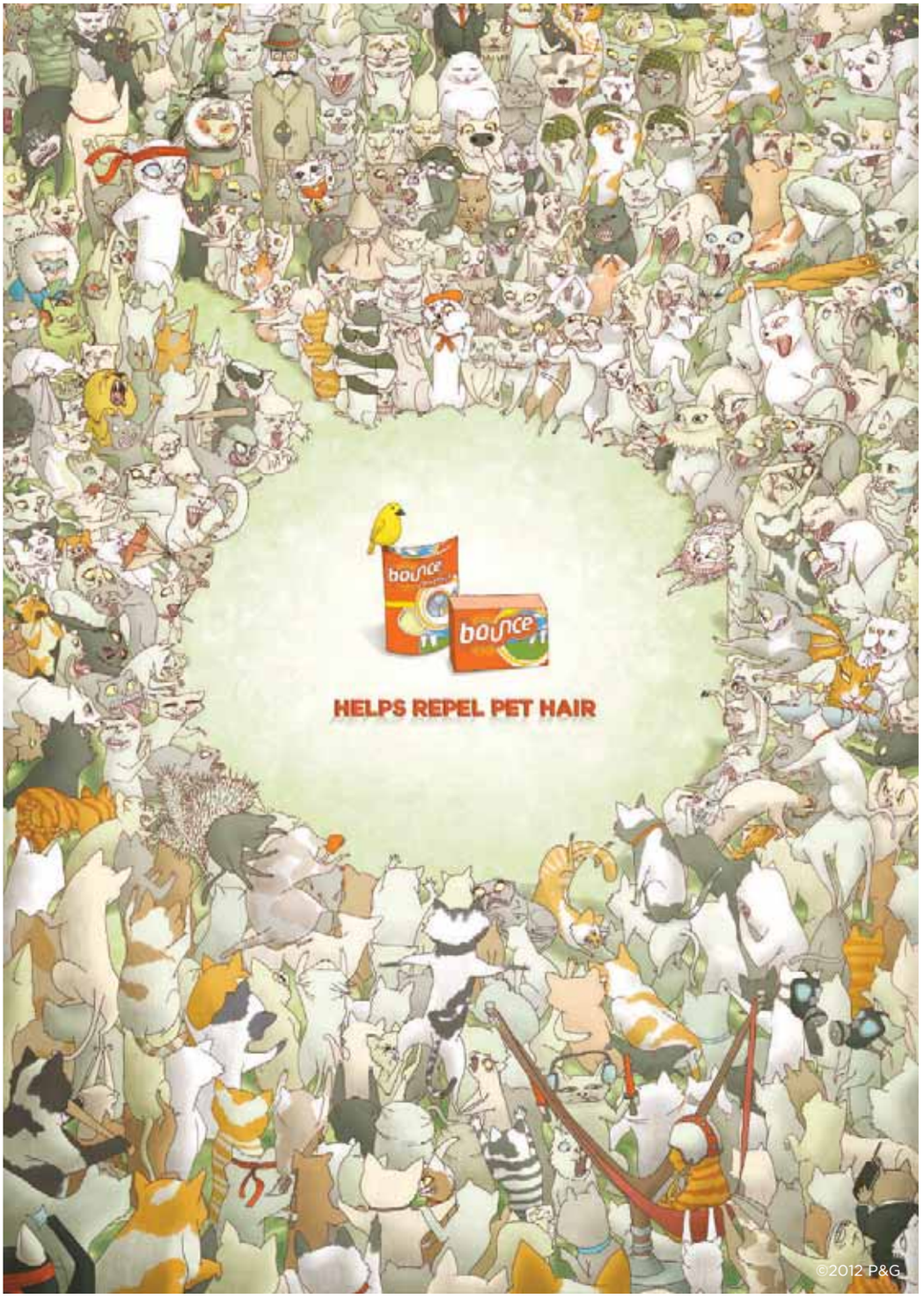
▶ In Awake, the main character can't determine what is reality and what is a dream.

Awake's tricks

Awake employs a classic trick to allow viewers to dip in at any point: It's what Gordon calls an "old-school title sequence" that restates the concept before each episode.

▶ "So if you tune in for episode seven, you have the tools to sit down and enjoy that hour of television," producer Howard Gordon says.

"For an idea like this, clarity is your friend and you want to make the barrier as low as possible."



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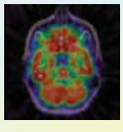

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50 Cent puts dollars into hunger fight

- **Rapper's trip to Africa left him a 'changed man'**
- **Hopes to provide a billion meals to hungry children**

When 50 Cent announced that part of the proceeds from his new energy drink would be used to help fight hunger in Africa, some questioned whether his motives were genuine.

But the rapper says he's making a difference, and since a visit to the continent earlier this month, he's a changed man.

"It enlightened me in different ways," he said. "To actually see people under the circumstances that I saw was a totally different experience. I don't think you can prepare yourself for that, no matter how many times you've seen the images."

The rapper-turned-humanitarian flew to Kenya and Somalia with World Food Program earlier this month to witness the effects of hunger firsthand. 50 Cent has a goal to provide one billion meals to hungry children over the next five years. Every purchase of Street King, an energy drink the rapper promotes and launched last fall, will provide a meal for a person in need through the United Nations' program.

ROSE OGLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

▶ 50 Cent on his trip to Africa.

50 Cent said he was touched by the children he visited in Nairobi, the capitol of Kenya. "There's nothing there — within their eyes and the way that they interacted with each other — that would indicate that they feel deprived in any way," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Art imitates life

50 Cent says his recent trip to Africa inspired him to return to the studio to record new material.

"I've put portions of my experience there in the actual songs, but it's so small that they'll have to listen to get it," he said. "I wanted to keep the record, creatively, in a space where when people listen to it, they just enjoy it before they can really understand what it was I'm saying; there's things on it that have double meanings."

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The number of meals 50 Cent says his program has provided to hungry people in Africa.

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Zombie no more

The Cranberries are set to release their first studio album in over 10 years They feel very much 'alive'

HANDOUT

The Cranberries

As much as The Cranberries still get a thrill from seeing audiences erupt to the opening chords of Zombie, its members knew they could only resurrect the band if they had some new songs to play.

"I've sang Zombie so many times that I actually feel like a zombie," joked singer Dolores O'Riordan in a recent interview to promote Roses, the band's first studio album in more than 10 years.

"We've been doing our old hits for so long, you feel like you're stuck in a loop or something, so with new material you feel very much alive."

It took a long breather from life on the road before the band felt ready to reunite from the hiatus they declared in 2003, which ended 13 years of relentless recording and touring.

The bandmates originally hooked up as teenagers in the early 1990s and quickly grew into international rock stars. Their debut, Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?, included the hit Linger, which helped start the quick transition from playing bars and clubs and opening for the likes of Duran Duran, Radiohead and Suede to headlining arenas and stadiums.

"We just said, 'Look, let's go off and do our own thing,"' recalled O'Riordan, while sitting alongside fellow Cranberries songwriter Noel Hogan.

In the ensuing years, O'Riordan, her husband and kids found an isolated home away from the media spotlight in a remote Ontario town, north of Toronto. The picturesque surroundings and time away from her whirlwind life with the globe-trotting band helped influence two solo albums, Are You Listening? in 2007 and No Baggage in 2009.

But O'Riordan and Hogan did trade song ideas back and forth over the years and decided they were ready to get back together again in 2009. They first committed to a massive reunion tour — with 107 gigs around the world — and trotted out all their big hits again, including Linger, Dreams, Salvation, Free to Decide and, of course, the hard-rocking Zombie.

But once the comeback tour was through, the band committed to hitting the studio and coming up with some new tunes to play live. It was last year that they got together in Toronto to start recording Roses, and O'Riordan said it felt just like old times, before everyone got burned out.

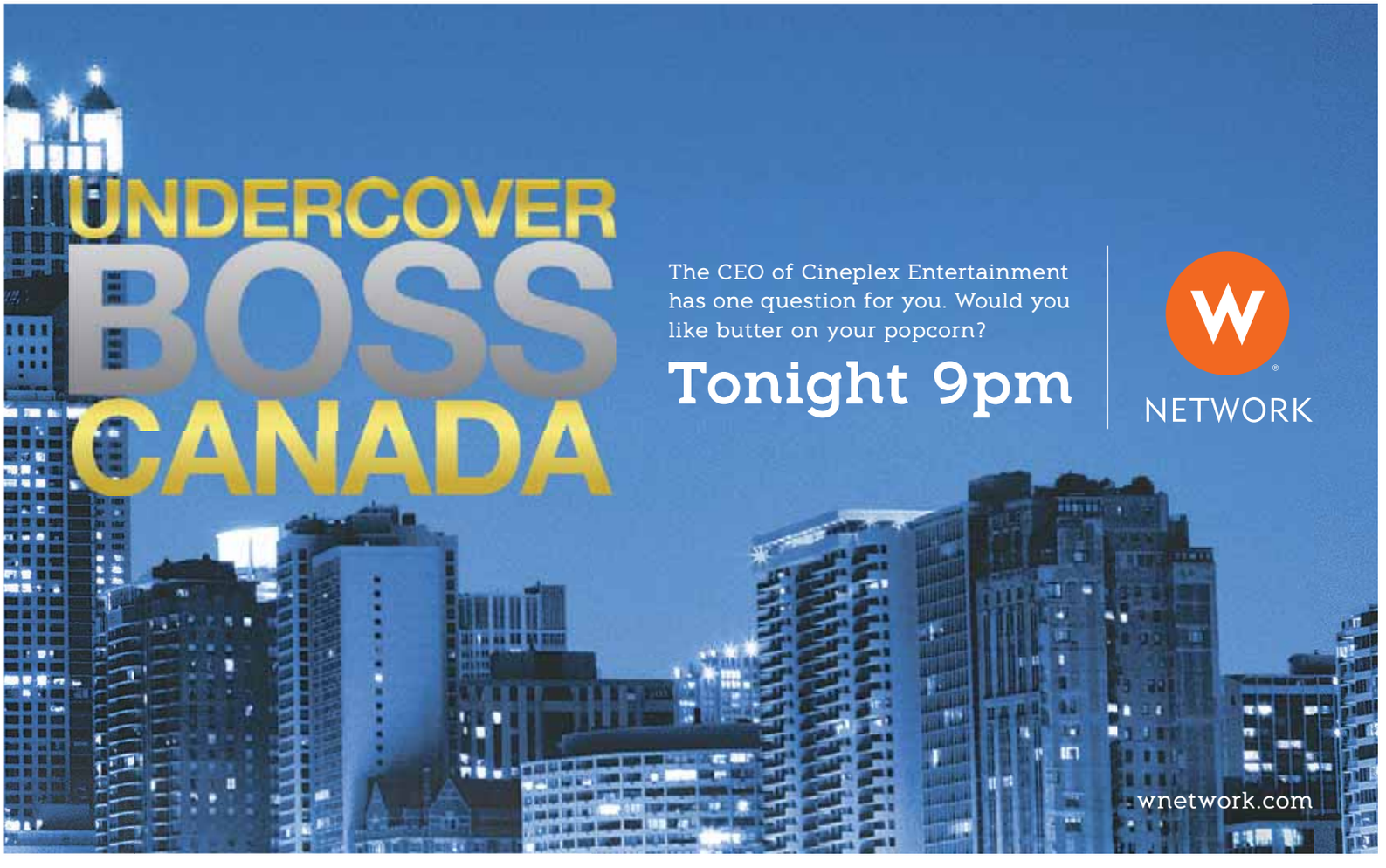
"I think (in years past) we did start to feel like, 'Oh, (we just) have to do another album,' but with this one we didn't have that feeling, it was like we were doing it for ourselves, for a laugh, more like the early albums," she said.

"We weren't trying to write anything too catchy or anything like that and a lot of the tracks on the album are really quite different. You know, maybe there's one or two that would be (considered) catchy but the rest are very experimental and different from what we've done before."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tomorrow

The album's lead single is Tomorrow, a track that everyone agreed was the right song to reintroduce the world to the Cranberries, Hogan said. "The record company really pushed for it but I think we all knew to be honest when we heard it in the studio," he said.



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Lindsay Lohan

‘I will not let anyone down’

Lindsay Lohan is mounting her comeback, starting with a stint hosting Saturday Night Live this week, and she knows there’s a lot at stake.

“I will not let anyone down, especially myself,” she says in an interview with the Today Show, starkly contrasting her last visit to the show, during which she denied having any problems at all.

“I wasn’t as comfortable with myself then. I think it was a fear factor that I had about what was really going on. And, you know, I had to get that wake-up call.”

METRO

Snooki pregnant?

MTV went into crisis mode after hearing news: Source

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Snooki

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Though she recently denied it, many news organizations are now reporting that Nicole “Snooki” Polizzi is indeed three months pregnant with boyfriend Jionni LaValle’s baby.

The Jersey Shore star is reportedly looking to make the most of the announcement — and has even brokered a deal for a cover story with Us Weekly.

Apparently, Snooki is looking to use her pregnancy to become “the next Kourtney Kardashian,” a source tells Page Six.

But reps at MTV aren’t as excited, since Snooki is currently filming a Jersey Shore spin-off chronicling her hard-partying lifestyle.

“MTV went into crisis mode after they found out,” the source says. “They’re trying to hide it because it would greatly affect the creative direction of the show.”

At first, I laughed at this because, well, “creative direction” and Jersey Shore spin-off do not go together.

But then it makes sense: MTV’s programming is filled with a million bad parenting reality shows, from Teen Mom to 16 and Pregnant. Even they probably loathe to air a segment of Snooki taking her baby for its first spray tan.

Celebrity tweets

@davidwain

Favor for me: if you liked Wanderlust, please email 100 friends and tell them to go see it. As thanks I’ll send you a Blue 2009 Honda Civic.

@M_E_Winstead

I just cut my hand with texturizing shears and full on passed out. Great way to start the day!

@hwinkler4real

YES we are a little behind in the Winkler household but ...BREAKING BAD..HAS OVER TAKEN ME now that’s tv

@Joan_Rivers

Both Jennifer Lopez and I have experienced nipple slips at the Oscars. The only difference is that mine was peeking out of an open-toe shoe.

Who will play Whitney in film?

Plans are reportedly already underway for a movie about Whitney Houston’s life, according to the Daily Mail.

Producer Clive Davis is behind the project, and while Jennifer Hudson, Vivica Fox and Jordin Sparks are reportedly on the list for the lead role, Davis is said to have his eye on Rihanna to play Houston.

And lest it seems like Davis is trying to cash in on his friend’s death, the film was reportedly already being developed before Houston passed away last month.

Whitney Houston

“Whitney knew about the project and was excited to see where it would lead,” a source says.

METRO

Ben and Jen welcome third child

Affleck and Garner

Jennifer Garner gave birth to a son Tuesday in Santa Monica, Calif., according to People magazine. It’s the third child and first boy for Garner and husband Ben Affleck, who also have daughters Violet, 6, and Seraphina, 3.

Garner previously said that they knew the gender of the baby ahead of time but weren’t sharing that information.

“It would be so weird to have a boy,” she told Ellen DeGeneres during an interview last year.

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3 life

Star power

GETTY IMAGES

It was announced this week that Sir Elton John will be headlining Fashion Cares, the silver anniversary fundraising gala, to be held on September 9, 2012 at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto.

Chaired by Michael King and David Furnish, with cosmetics powerhouse MAC Viva Glam returning as title sponsor, the event will feature an intimate dinner, a retrospective of the past 25 years of Fashion Cares, and a live show performance by Sir Elton John and other high profile, international musicians.

METRO

Guy Laroche designer shows gem-inspired collection, and no skin, in Paris.

Peter Philips, global creative director of Chanel makeup, creates nail and lip colours that instantly sell out and spark wait lists Heed his advice for a natural, beautiful look

You too can nail Chanel chic

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

WILLY WANDERPERRE

Peter Philips

The mouth vs. the eyes

"Being beautiful is as tough as you want to make it, but it doesn't have to be all about the pressure. There's no such thing as an ideal face. Who can measure that? A perfect face is one that expresses confidence and is happy with itself. When I speak to somebody I'm always drawn to their mouth, maybe that's because it's more comfortable than looking someone in the eyes. Also with the eyes, which eye do you look at? But all women should have an eyelash curler. This also applies to women who don't wear makeup. One pinch to the lashes can work miracles as it opens up your eyes and makes you look fresh and awake. Add some mascara and you're ready to go."

The face: The fine balance

"It's a criminal offence to wear too much makeup, just as it is to wear too little. It's all about striking a balance and wearing a look with confidence. Something that always looks wrong is not blending your foundation in properly so that you can see the line between the face and the neck. It's so easy to avoid. Blend it out with your fingers or check the lighting in your bathroom."

"It's a criminal offence to wear too much makeup, just as it is to wear too little makeup. It's all about striking a balance and wearing a look with confidence."
PETER PHILIPS

Don't forget the inside

"Every phase of your life has beauty in it. We all want youth but at some point we have to realize that we're getting older and it's not all about foundation or mascara. If you eat and live wrong it will have an impact on your looks. You know the tricks: eat more vegetables, stop smoking, drink water and cut back on alcohol."

The nails: introducing April, May and June.

"The Le Vernis shades are anticipated not because of me but because they're Chanel. I have the advantage that I can link my creations with the fashion show, it gives them a reason to exist. May is pinky and girly and June has a beachy feel to it. It took 24 try-outs in the lab before we got the right shade for Le Vernis in June.

What's trending?

Trends, no. Seduction, yes.

"I don't create trends; it's the women who wear them that create them. My challenge is to develop shades that will seduce these women into buying them and the only way to seduce a women is by literally seducing her. I chose spring horizons; sunset and sunrise as it can be the most amazing moment of the day. I was afraid it would be a bit kitschy, mellow and corny, but it's also very beautiful. She can't be intimidated by the colours or feel like she's being forced into wearing something. She needs to stand in front of the counter or be reading a magazine and say, 'that's a shade I want to wear.'"

Jeanne Space

In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you.

@Jeanne_Beker: 8 days of shows to cover in Paris. A fantasy for some... A lot of work for me! But not complaining. What's YOUR ultimate Paris fantasy?

- @sarahohm: "Audrey Hepburn in Funny Face" would be mine! #parisfantasy
- @Jeanne_Beker: Oh yeah! To be a hot young model falling in love with a cool photographer... What a gorgeous cliche!
- @Enriquemylove16: live there go to champs elysees every weekend for shopping :P get to know people from there explore the fashion world #dream♥
- @Mymsie7: wow! I want to get to visit every beautiful spot in the city! And taste everything there is to taste! I want to go next year:)
- @KendalLo: Hands down Paris at Christmas & NYE. Long meals inside warm Parisian restaurants, lots of wine, good coffee and shopping.
- @Jeanne_Beker: Oh YEAH! Nothing like guilt-free gorging in the City of Light! Worth every calorie!!!

View from mon petit chambre. Always stay in same charming St. Germain hotel in same sweet room: Home.

TUNE INTO FASHION TELEVISION EVERY SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. (ET) ON CTV. JEANNE BEKER'S FINDING MYSELF IN FASHION (PENGUIN) IS AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORES NATIONWIDE.

The right look at any age

THE KIT

By Chantel Simmons and Janine Falcon

In Your 20s

Veg Out
Stave off frown lines with a peptide derived from okra in this more than 90% natural, no-paraben serum. Just after application, you'll feel Indeed Labs Okrapeptide tell facial muscle contractions to slack off, STAT. $40, indeedlabs.com

Comfort Zone
In this 98% natural moisturizer, rosewater and shea butter calm and soften winter-cranky skin. Katafray bark extract works on helping it balance self-hydration issues. Kibio Ki-Crème Hydration & Radiance. $37, kibio.com

Light Play
A swirl of shimmery Marcelle Fantasia Face Powder in Daydream Muse adds a "what winter?" warmth. $17, marcelle.com

Those Waves
Get body and bounce with ease by using Goody Blowdry Protect Hair Damage Control brush, $13, goody.com

In Your 30s

Drink Up
Paraben-free Darphin Paris Hydraskin Intensive Skin-Hydrating Serum slips right into your skin-care lineup to quench its dry-air thirst with glycerin, pomegranate extract and trehalose, a water-loving molecule similar to hyaluronic acid, which is in here, too. $100, at Holt Renfrew and Murale stores.

Night Shift
While you sleep, salicylic acid speeds exfoliation while hyaluronic acid and trehalose bump moisture levels. No-paraben Clinique Turnaround Overnight Radiance Moisturizer also contains UV-damage repairing ingredients — that's a good night's work. $52, clinique.ca

Prep Star
Palette master Bobbi Brown's eight shimmery shadows and four shimmer and sparkle glosses is a limited-edition compact you'll want when the holiday-shindig circuit starts. Bobbi Brown Ultimate Party Collection, $75, bobbibrowncosmetics.com

Direct Protect
We love sleek, straight hair. But protection is key! Matrix Biolage Color Care Shielding Shine Mist with UV filters, $20, matrix.com

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The Instant Injection Alternative now available in Canada

Freezeframe with INHIBOX is currently tackling wrinkles all over Toronto after quickly becoming the best selling product in the anti-aging category in Australia, South Africa and the UK, where there was even a waiting list of 14,000 names!

This new, revolutionary Australian complex relaxes the appearance of your wrinkles instantly, so your skin feels and appears lifted for hours. This world's first instant and long term formula reduces the appearance of your expression wrinkles, frown lines and crows feet.

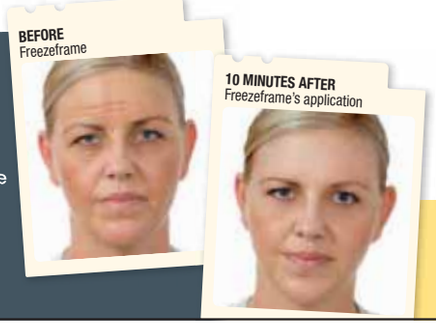
Why wait for months when you can wipe away the years right this very minute?
For the first time a product has the potential to efficiently treat the appearance of wrinkles without needles, doctors or pain! Freezeframe with INHIBOX is clinically proven to reduce the appearance of wrinkles in 5 minutes and up to 63.13% in 28 days.

Two of the world's most potent wrinkle erasers in one formula!
Every single time you use Freezeframe with INHIBOX, you are preventing the repetitive muscle movement that is causing your wrinkles. So not only will you look less wrinkly immediately, you are actually allowing your skin to regenerate. The instant effect of INHIBOX™ that has the power of an Instant Facial Relaxer combined with the newly discovered Snap-8, the most powerful peptide, will give you amazing results.

What makes Freezeframe with INHIBOX so popular?
- clinical studies results are impressive: women have experienced a massive reduction of expression wrinkles, frown lines and crows feet in 5 minutes.
- it is painless and easy to apply, and mineral, oil-free makeup can be worn over it.
- never before has there been a cosmetic product that instantly reduces the appearance of wrinkles and has a long term wrinkle reducing effect!

freezeframe™ with INHIBOX™

No one can deny the spectacular effects of this unique formula! Try it and in just minutes you will see wrinkles disappear before your very eyes!



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Hip just got a whole lot more mod. Like its London namesake, The Carnaby can be described as the bee's knees of style and all things sophisticated. A living space you're drawn to because it's right where you want to be – nestled amongst the indie-stores, laid back cafés, trendy boutiques and the oh so rad galleries of Queen West. Inspired living at its best, The Carnaby is the new bookend to Toronto's famous west end arts & design district.

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Vivid dreams

The project overview

Vivid is the final condominium in Pemberton's established Etobicoke community, which has its own neighbourhood park with a playground. The spacious natural-light-filled suites are appointed with high-quality features and finishes such as laminate flooring and smooth ceilings throughout.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

Five-year mortgage rates

FIXED		VARIABLE
5.24%	BMO	3.10%
5.24%	CIBC	3.10%
5.39%	HSBC	3.00%
3.44%	ICICI	3.00%
3.49%	ING	3.00%
5.24%	RBC	3.10%
5.29%	SCOTIA	3.10%
5.24%	TD	3.10%
3.14%	BROKER	2.75%

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Meet the condo

- **WHAT:** Vivid Condominiums
- **BUILDER:** Pemberton Group
- **LOCATION:** Bloor street west and Islington avenue
- **WEBSITE:** vividcondos.com
- **PHONE:** 416-239-8200
- **SIZES:** From 580 to 1,120 sq. ft.
- **PRICING:** From the mid-$200,000s

Location and transit

Residents can walk to the Islington subway station or catch GO Transit from the nearby Kipling station. Commuters will enjoy close proximity to Highway 427 and the Gardiner Expressway. You can be in the downtown core within 20 minutes.

In the neighbourhood

The neighbourhood surroundings are packed with amenities such as schools, libraries, recreation centres and sports clubs. Islington Village is close by, with shops, bakeries and delis. Bloor West Village, The Kingsway and Sherway Gardens are all only minutes away, as are Lake Ontario and the Waterfront Trail.

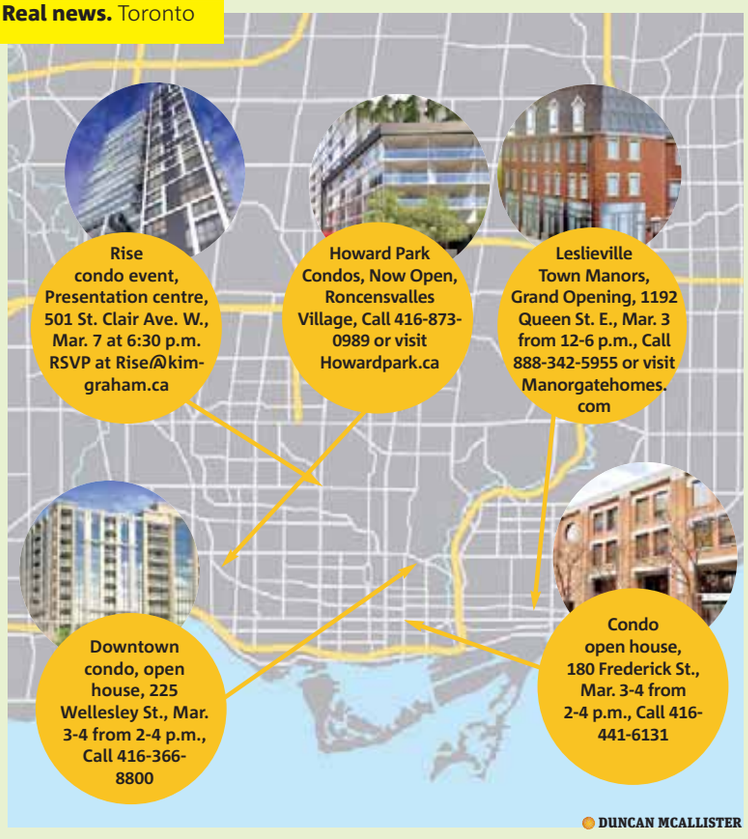
Building amenities

Owners will enjoy an indoor swimming pool, private men's and women's change rooms and an equipped fitness centre. Entertain in Vivid's urban chic party room, which feature a fireplace, bar, a food serving counter and a catering kitchen. There are cards and billiards rooms and a 24-hour concierge.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Rendering of Vivid condominiums

Real news. Toronto


Rise condo event, Presentation centre, 501 St. Clair Ave. W., Mar. 7 at 6:30 p.m. RSVP at Rise@kimgraham.ca
Howard Park Condos, Now Open, Roncensvalles Village, Call 416-873-0989 or visit Howardpark.ca
Leslieville Town Manors, Grand Opening, 1192 Queen St. E., Mar. 3 from 12-6 p.m., Call 888-342-5955 or visit Manorgatehomes.com
Downtown condo, open house, 225 Wellesley St., Mar. 3-4 from 2-4 p.m., Call 416-366-8800
Condo open house, 180 Frederick St., Mar. 3-4 from 2-4 p.m., Call 416-441-6131

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

ALL THINGS HOME AND GARDEN AT THE NATIONAL HOME SHOW

ROOFTOP SURFING

PAUL GOLINI JR.
HOME
@METRONEWS.CA

Have you ever been to the National Home Show? I feel like I've been waiting for this one for a while. Why, you wonder? This year is going to be even bigger and better than last year, and if you've never been, you will be in good company.

We've teamed up with Canada Blooms to co-locate the two shows and bring the largest North American display of innovative products and new ideas for all things home and garden under one roof.

The 10-day show kicks off March 16 at the Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place and there are going to be more than 800 retailers and industry experts on hand to help you with your latest project whether it's indoor, outdoor, custom home or condo convenience.

Just think, that bathroom renovation you've been putting off, or those planters on your balcony that need a new lease on life, now you can get advice for both in the same building.

And here's a hint: if you go to nationalhomeshow.com you can save a few bucks off the admission price and get access to two great events on the one ticket.

Here's something you won't want to miss: this year's Dream Home, R-House, designed by BILD Renovation and Custom Building Award Winner, PROBUILT by Michael Upshall and presented by the Toronto Star. This ultra-modern 3,600-square-foot home will have a ton of energy efficient and decor ideas for you to incorporate in your own home.

As well, returning for another successful year will be our popular Destination Renovation booth, where BILD Renomark renovators will be available for free advice on any project you've got in mind.

This year's Renovation and Custom Building Award finalists will also be featured at the booth, so come on down because, I'm telling you, you'll want to see these dramatic before-and-after photos. See you there!

PAUL GOLINI JR. IS CHAIR OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (BILD) AND CAN BE FOUND ON TWITTER (TWITTER.COM/BILDGTA), FACEBOOK (FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA), AND BILD'S BLOG (BILDBLOGS.CA).

Set the stage for the sale

Staging your home can get you a better asking price for your condo ◗ Next, add flowers, candles and clean it like never before

DUNCAN MCALLISTER
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Thinking of selling your condo? Staging adds sizzle to your unit and showcases your rooms in the best possible light for potential buyers.

A small investment in a properly staged condo can result in offers well above your asking price. For example, the Manitoba Real Estate Staging Association found that staged homes sold over list 68 per cent of the time. Condo staging will help sell your condo faster because the longer it stays on the market, the further the price declines.

So what is staging? Buyers need to be able to imagine themselves living in your condo, which is hard to visualize in a big, empty space. Every good realtor knows that staging is a powerful tool that transforms your unit into a model suite that buyers want to see. And big, colourful photos of beautifully staged rooms will really stand out in your online listings and will drive traffic to your opening.

It pays to get expert advice as most condo sellers may not be able to view their units objectively. The pros know all the little tricks that help to sell, like the use of battery-operated, scented candles instead of real ones.

Greenery, florals, and candles can also be artistically placed throughout the rooms. And make your own draperies with inexpensive fabric and hemmed with fusible hem tape — no sewing required.

Donna Ragona is a certified trusted staging authority with Suite Design in Oakville. "If you do only one thing, make sure you clean, clean, clean," she says.

So what to do with an empty condo when you've got no furnishings available? An innovative and popular trend is emerging in the condo staging realm: funky fake furniture.

"The real furniture, that is still offered, but we also offer now the knockdown cardboard furniture as a different option. I'll offer it as a service. My team will set up the furniture and do the full staging," says Ragona.

These faux-furnishings are indistinguishable from the real thing and can stand up to 1,000 pounds of weight. They are collapsible and can fit in the back of your car. Ragona explains, "the boxes are the base, and then they have slip covers. There's different colours and then the accessorizing is something separate, so any pillows and throws, that we do on our own. The beds come with the headboard and the bed skirts and we add any bedding."

Condo staging tips

- **Walk through** your property with a friend and scrutinize every room from a buyer's perspective.
- **Make it bright,** turn on all the lights, even during the day, and open all curtains and blinds. Clean all your windows, inside and out.
- **Welcome potential buyers** with bright and cheerful planters filled with plants and flowers .
- **Use scents and candles** to create an inviting smell in your rooms.
- **Make sure** everything is cleaned up, put away and all the beds are made.

COURTESY DONNA RAGONA AT SUITE DESIGN.

▶ Cardboard furniture can help buyers picture themselves living in your unit.

COURTESY DONNA RAGONA AT SUITE DESIGN.

▶ Make your condo bright and inviting.

FINGERPRINTS SHOULD ONLY BE TAKEN IF YOU'RE ARRESTED

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLES THEBUTLER@ METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLES MACPHERSON.COM

Dear Charles the butler,
Can you please advise on the best way to remove finger marks from stainless steel appliances?
Thank you,
Kim

ISTOCK

▶ Stop collecting finger marks on your stainless steel items.

Dear Kim,

As beautiful as stainless steel is, those finger marks drive me nuts too!

Fingerprints tend to be oil-based, although they can be caused by many other things. But natural oil from the skin on our fingers is the most common culprit.

So remember, "like removes like." These are the methods in the order I like to follow and the ones in which I have had the most success:

1. A microfibre cloth and "all-purpose cleaner" (4 cups water & 1 tablespoon dish soap)

2. A microfibre cloth and "multi-purpose cleaner" (50% water & 50% vinegar)

3. Paper towel and olive oil; I learned this trick from a stainless steel installer and it does work!

4. You can buy a commercial stainless steel cleaning product at most hardware stores

Remember to wipe the entire surface. If you only spot wipe the handle and surrounding area, you will eventually get a mark or discolouration from where you always wipe.

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND A MESSAGE TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

WATERY WOES

LEGAL MATTERS

JEFFREY COWAN
HOME
@METRONEWS.CA

We have recently purchased a house with a water purifier system installed in it by the previous home owners; and we are charged directly through our Enbridge bills. However, we are not satisfied with this system and want to cancel it. I made a call to this company but they advised us we would have to pay a cancellation fee. We were not aware of this cancellation fee prior to buying the house and this purifying system is still listed under the previous house owners.

Could you please advise us what option do we have here?

There are two important points to be examined here: Was the purifying system written into the Agreement of Purchase and Sale or was it simply something that you discovered came with the house?

If the system was written into the agreement then usually you would interpret that as being a pre-existing rental contract that you assumed when you purchased the home and the cancellation fee probably rests on your shoulders.

If this was a system that was discovered on your purchase, and particularly if it is still in the name of the former owners, (even though it comes on your Enbridge invoice?) you might very well be able to demand that the former owners pay for the disconnection fee.

Whether they comply or not is really the question at this point because once the utility bill has been switched to a new owner, the former owners are far less likely to contribute to a water purifying system that they no longer own.

The key to this and many such problems is what is written in the Agreement of Purchase and Sale.

JEFFREY COWAN IS THE PRINCIPAL OF COWAN LAW AND CAN BE REACHED BY EMAIL AT JEFF@COWANLAW.CA.

- INTRODUCTION -

IT'S TIME TO REWRITE THE BOOK ON CONDO LIVING. WE CALL IT THE CONDO CODE.

All of us are governed by a set of rules. A code of conduct, if you will. Living in a condo is no different and should provide for a full, rich and optimistic existence. A code that embraces this philosophy has been around since the beginning of time (or at least since the very first condominium was ever built). We call it The Condo Code. Previously it existed as hearsay, scribbles on napkins, coasters and matchbooks or graffiti on restroom stalls.*

Before dismissing this exercise as superficial, needless or ignoble, let us ask you, what kind of condo do you want to live in? Do you want it to fit the awesomeness of your lifestyle? Should it rethink condo-ness? Should it create time and space for you? Should your condo answer your every whim – to suit up, eat out, wear wingtips or Louboutin shoes, to club or swing a club. Does it make you hungry, for a bigger life? If you can say yes to all or forty-two percent of these questions, you need to register to find out more about INDX Condos. Make no mistake, The Condo Code can be lived at INDX Condos in the heart of the Financial District, from the mid $200's. Live with joy, jealousy, envy, success, power and over indulging in poutine or Red Bull. Centuries† from now, The Condo Code will live as an example of how to relax on a faux** zebra rug and how to look hot in a kitchen you've never, ever cooked in. In the meantime, live by The Condo Code at INDX Condos.

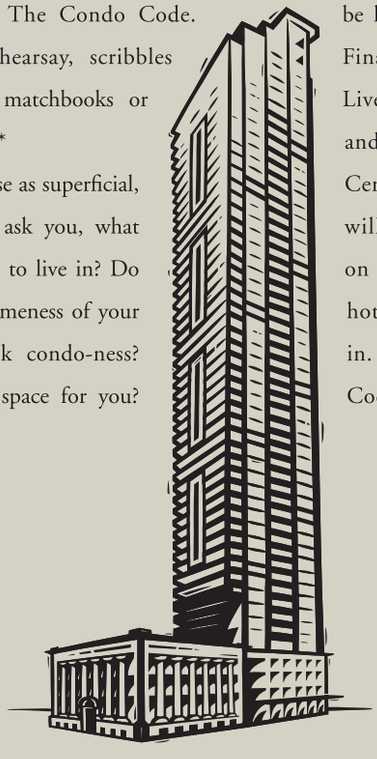


fig.1

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* So they say, whoever "they" are. †Approximately **Because real zebra would be cruel. Illustrations are artist's concept. A really good artist.

DESIGN CENTRE

Lose that 'bowling alley' look

Home decor guru Karl Lohnes tackles a reader's living room design dilemma

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

I recently moved into a new place and bought two open-style sofas for the living room to create a cosy but formal look. Now the room looks like a bowling alley. What can I do to fix this?
Tamara McCarthur, Toronto

CB2's Acrylic Tripod Easel, $199

Creating a symmetrical look with furnishings is an easy way to add a formal touch to any room. In your case, the positioning of the two couches guide the eye directly to the plain windows at the end of the room, creating the bowling alley effect.

With no options of rearranging the sofas, try to find ways to divert the eye from going all the way to the end of the room. You can do this by adding a few interesting and useful accessories that make the eye go from side to side rather than to the end of the room. Here are a few suggestions:

Layered rugs not only look cool but can allow you to use a favourite too-small rug by laying a larger one underneath. A large horizontal striped 8-by-10-foot rug will help draw the eye across the room and make it look wider than it is. Now the room will have a size-appropriate rug while still incorporating your cool but smallish hidden rug.

One heavy wall of coloured art will quickly draw the eye to one side of the room rather than immediately to the end of the room. I suggest hanging the large print to the left of the room, then adding many small art pieces opposite to keep both walls filled. Other red accents, such as glass vases, candles and throws, will help add a bit more colour into the room.

Place something airy in the corner to round out the room. A whimsical tall plant, étagère or art easel will help. When you fill in the corners of a room you'll then help shorten the space into a better proportion.

Consider an art easel holding a tiny, bright-coloured painting or becoming the stand for a plasma television... different, interesting and unique!

A not too heavy looking display or serving table in front of the window to display flowers, framed photos or use for serving when guests visit will anchor the end of the room by saying 'look at me first.'

The one you have looks a bit dark, heavy and plain. Painting it in a pale grey finish and topping it with glass will give it an airy look.

Got a design dilemma? Email your question and a photo to: home@metronews.ca. For daily design advice, follow @KarlLohnes on Twitter.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ This living room looks long and narrow. A few style tricks will help draw the eye to the sides of the room.

WEST ELM

▶ West Elm's 8x10 Zigzag Rug ($530)

John-Richard's Clipper Table, $789, homesav.com

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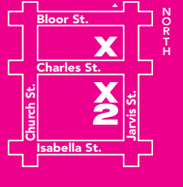

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Pastels: Back in vogue

For a time, pastels had faded into obscurity ▶ Now the unassuming colour palette is seeing a gentle resurgence ▶ Put away your memories of Miami Vice and give the trend a second look

RICHARD PECKETT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

The mention of pastels is enough to make some people cringe, especially men. It's a colour palette for which Queen Elizabeth II shows a fondness. But it's seeing a fashionable return — quite literally, have a look at the spring/summer '12 runways. Not to mention blogs and interior magazines.

The interior designer Sophie Paterson and author of Style and Glamour puts it down to people being "fed up with totally neutral colour schemes. Whilst anyone can throw a taupe scheme at a room, it takes a bit more skill to pull off a scheme using colour accents." Not to mention, "pastel colors are very calming and uplifting,"

Urban pastels

Pastels can read bucolic and that's not usually a favoured look amongst, savvy urban dwellers. Paterson suggests using, "soft feminine colours as a contrast with clean line furniture, particularly dark pieces such as grey-stained oak."

Avoid looking dull

"You need to use a variety of textures: velvet, silk, linen and wool all work well in juxtaposition. For example shiny against flat," explains the London-based interior designer. She continues, "I like to start with a neutral base (sofa, wall and floor) and build up the layers using colours and accessories to add depth and interest."

Accents and accessories

Rather than turning your space into a pastel chalkboard, you may prefer to give a nod to the trend with artfully selected accessories. Paterson says, "Ceramic vases work wonderfully in pastels. Abstract oil paintings with a touch of pastel in the paint colours, or even rustic linen cushions with a shot of pastel velvet are particularly sophisticated."

Spring thinking

Do more than just spring-clean and reinvigorate your apartment with a dash of colour because as the expert enthuses, "Pastels are particularly relevant for the spring season. I'm loving dusty pastel green. It represents the beginning of new growth and freshness, which feels so right after the long grey winter."

CONTRIBUTED

▶ This is a man's bedroom. Deal with it.

2 PIECES WITH PASTEL

ANTHROPOLOGIE
Amorphous nesting table set
▶ $898, anthropolgie.com

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▶ $341, panik-design.com

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SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 33

Satisfy your raw curiosity

March is Nutrition Month across Canada ◗ Celebrate eating healthy by trying to 'uncook' raw foods in your own kitchen ◗ This Super Carrot Soup is tasty and easy to prepare

Super Carrot Soup

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ This recipe makes 500 ml (2 cups).

Preparation:

1. In blender, combine carrots, water, oil, cilantro, garlic, raisins, lemon juice, salt, curry powder, cumin and cayenne. Blend until smooth.
2. Topping: Sprinkle each bowl with cilantro and raisins before serving. **UNCOOKING WITH RAWROSE BY ROSE VASILE/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF (FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

Variation

Avocado
Avocado can be used instead of olive oil. After blending other ingredients, blend half an avocado and 50 ml (1/4 cup) water until smooth.

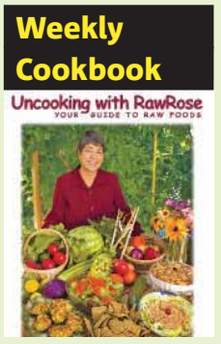
Ingredients:

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) coarsely chopped carrots
- 250 ml (1 cup) water
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) cilantro
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 tsp raisins
- 5 ml (1 tsp) lemon juice
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) sea salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) curry powder
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ground cumin
- Pinch cayenne 5 ml

Topping:

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) chopped fresh cilantro or parsley
- 5 ml (1 tsp) raisins

Weekly Cookbook



Certified raw foods chef Rose Vasile, has released the fifth edition of her Uncooking with RawRose cookbook ($29.95).

The recipes are surprisingly varied and include a large section on soups, salad dressing and dips and another on desserts, often using nuts or seeds as the base for cakes or pies.

One standout recipe is a lasagna made with layers of mushrooms, zucchini and spinach, almond cheese and marinara sauce.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

◗ Just because you're eating healthy, doesn't mean you shouldn't save room for dessert ◗ Try Banana Lemon Pie

Banana Lemon Pie

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ This recipe makes one 23-cm (9-inch) pie.

Preparation:

1. In a food processor, process the pecans or walnuts. Add the raisins and process everything until the mixture starts to clump together.
2. Gently distribute the mixture over the bottom of a 23-cm (9-inch) plate, then press the mixture firmly to form crust.
3. Grate the lemon zest on top of the crust.
4. Juice the lemons into a bowl. Slice the bananas into the lemon juice; stir gently to coat bananas with juice. Arrange banana slices/lemon juice on crust.
5. Optional: Decorate with poppy seeds, blueberries, raspberries, slices of colourful fruit or sprigs of mint. **UNCOOKING WITH RAWROSE BY ROSE VASILE/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF (FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

Ingredients:

- 750 ml (3 cups) pecans or walnuts (not soaked)
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) raisins
- Zest and juice from 1 1/2 medium lemons
- 4 medium bananas
- Poppy seeds, blueberries, raspberries, slices of colourful fruit or sprigs of mint (optional)

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4 sports

Quoted

"I told him he needs to have longer hair. When I think of Giancarlo, I think of someone with long, flowing hair, like Fabio. But if he keeps hitting homers, I'll call him whatever he wants me to call him."

MARLINS CATCHER JOHN BUCK, ON HIS TEAMMATE FORMERLY KNOWN AS MIKE STANTON, ABOVE. STANTON, WHOSE FULL NAME IS GIANCARLO CRUZ MICHAEL STANTON, HAS DECIDED TO USE THE NAME GIANCARLO, WHICH HE DROPPED IN THE FIFTH GRADE BECAUSE NO ONE COULD PRONOUNCE IT PROPERLY (IT'S PRONOUNCED JEE'-AHN-CAHR-LOH).

NHL. Chicago

▶ Blackhawks goalie Ray Emery makes a save on a shot by Matt Frattin on Wednesday.

CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leafs' woes continue against Blackhawks

Marian Hossa scored twice as the Chicago Blackhawks overcame an early two-goal deficit and defeated the struggling Toronto Maple Leafs 5-4 on Wednesday night to end a three-game losing streak. Tyler Bozak, Joffrey Lupul and Clarke MacArthur scored in the first period for the slumping Maple Leafs, who have dropped five straight and have just one win in their last 11.

Raptors rally past Hornets

Toronto had season-best 33-point fourth quarter Kleiza and DeRozan score 21 each

Linas Kleiza and Demar DeRozan scored 21 points apiece and the Toronto Raptors rallied to beat the New Orleans Hornets 95-84 on Wednesday night.

The Raptors, who trailed 69-62 after tying a season low for points in a quarter with 11 in the third, broke loose for 33 in the fourth — matching a season best for any quarter. They hit their first eight shots and took control by scoring 22 points in the first 4:22.

RAPTORS	HORNETS
95	84

Kleiza tied a career high with five three-pointers off the bench, including three in the fourth. Leandro Barbosa, another reserve, added 15 points.

Marco Belinelli had 20 points for the Hornets, who missed 13 consecutive shots in the fourth quarter and lost for the 16th straight time after trailing at the half. Chris Kaman added 17 points and 10 rebounds.

The game turned quickly at the start of the fourth after Toronto missed 17-of-21 shots in the third, getting outscored 23-11.

DeRozan scored on a floater, Kleiza drilled a three-pointer and Barbosa converted a transition layup to tie the score right away, prompting a New Orleans timeout with 10:43 left.

The Raptors did not cool down. Kleiza hit another three on their next possession. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woods' agent slams book by former swing coach

Tiger Woods' agent lashed out Tuesday against Hank Haney's book, saying his "armchair psychology" about Woods was "ridiculous" and that it was clear the former swing coach only cares about self-promotion.

Haney's book about his six years as Woods' coach is titled The Big Miss. It is to go on sale March 27.

Golf Digest began releasing small excerpts Tuesday on its tablet applications and on its website. Haney's book was written with help from Jaime Diaz, a senior writer at the magazine who has covered Woods more extensively than anyone over the years.

In one of the excerpts, Haney, a McKinney, Texas, golf guru, said his job became more difficult in 2007, when Woods had 12 majors and was getting closer to the record 18 won by Jack Nicklaus.

"There was more urgency and less fun.... He never mentioned Nicklaus' record, but it started to weigh more heavily at every major," the excerpt said. "And Tiger's actions indicated he believed he had less time to do it than everyone thought."

He also said Woods was seriously considering becoming a Navy SEAL.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Steelers will drop Ward

Hines Ward's constant, ear-to-ear smile tucked behind a black face mask has been a lasting image for Pittsburgh Steelers fans the past 14 seasons.

They won't see it again.

At least, not in a black-and-gold uniform.

The franchise's all-time leader in just about every meaningful receiving category will be released sometime in the next two weeks, said president Art Rooney II on the team's website on Wednesday.

A four-time Pro Bowl selection and MVP of the 2006 Super Bowl, Ward will finish his Steelers career with 1,000 catches, 12,083 yards and 85 receiving touchdowns. He helped Pittsburgh to three AFC championships and a pair of Super Bowl wins.

Ward vowed to return for a 15th season next fall. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ax Man looking sharp

Brewers closer Axford set to build on his breakthrough season

John Axford was fighting food poisoning last spring, leaving the Milwaukee Brewers uncertain about his future with the team. After a breakthrough season, they no longer have any doubts about the tall Canadian closer.

"Command wasn't good, velocity wasn't good, so we weren't sure," Brewers manager Ron Roenicke recalled. "You can't make quick judgments at spring training."

There's no questioning the six-foot-five right-hander's command or velocity now.

"He throws 98. He sits upper 90s," catcher Jonathan Lucroy said Wednesday. "He has two-plus off-speed pitches, secondary pitches with his curveball and slider. Coupled with that, he's 6-5, he's nasty and throws strikes.

MORRY GASH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Milwaukee closer John Axford wipes his face during a spring-training workout on Wednesday.

"With the movement he has and with the ability he has to throw strikes with those pitches, I think he's just devastating."

Axford had a franchise-record 46 saves last year, converting his last 43 chances to set another team record. He was 2-2 with a 2.26 ERA in 73⅔ innings in 74 appearances to help the Brewers win the NL Central.

"His stuff's electric. It really is," Roenicke said. "He's got a tremendous fastball with life on it that he commands well. He's got a punchout slider and a punchout curveball. So, the combination of those three things, if he's throwing strikes, I expect him to close every game he's out there. That's what I expect. Is it fair to say he's going to do it all the time? No, but I expect him to."

The 29-year-old Axford, signed as a free agent in 2008 after he was released by the New York Yankees, has been sharp early in spring training.

"It's going really well," said the Simcoe, Ont., native. "I feel really good."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Kobe OK to play

Kobe Bryant has been cleared to play for the Los Angeles Lakers after breaking his nose and getting a concussion in the all-star game.

Bryant was declared symptom-free Wednesday night by his neurologist, who cleared Bryant about an hour before the Lakers hosted the Minnesota Timberwolves in their first game back from the all-star break.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-NY Rangers	61	40	15	1	5	169	124	86	21-7-0-2	19-8-1-3	7-2-0-1	W2
d-Boston	61	37	21	1	2	200	140	77	18-11-1-1	19-10-0-1	4-5-0-1	L1
d-Florida	62	30	20	5	7	158	172	72	15-8-1-7	15-12-4-0	6-3-0-1	W3
Pittsburgh	62	36	21	2	3	198	163	77	20-8-2-0	16-13-0-3	6-3-0-1	W3
Ottawa	65	34	23	6	2	199	192	76	17-12-2-1	17-11-4-1	7-2-1-0	W2
Philadelphia	62	34	21	2	5	203	188	75	14-10-1-4	20-11-1-1	4-5-0-1	L1
New Jersey	62	35	23	1	3	172	170	74	16-12-0-3	19-11-1-0	5-4-0-1	L3
Washington	63	32	26	2	3	172	178	69	21-8-0-2	11-18-2-1	4-5-0-1	W3
Winnipeg	65	30	27	4	4	166	186	68	19-10-1-3	11-17-3-1	5-3-1-1	L2
Toronto	63	29	27	4	3	187	195	65	16-12-3-2	13-15-1-1	1-8-1-0	L5
Tampa Bay	63	29	28	3	3	176	213	64	19-9-1-1	10-19-2-2	6-4-0-0	W1
Buffalo	62	27	27	4	4	154	180	62	16-11-3-4	11-16-1-0	5-3-1-1	L1
NY Islanders	63	26	28	6	3	147	182	61	14-14-5-0	12-14-2-2	4-5-1-0	L2
Carolina	63	24	26	7	6	166	190	61	17-12-0-5	7-14-7-1	5-1-2-2	W1
Montreal	64	24	30	2	8	164	177	58	11-14-2-6	13-16-0-2	3-6-0-1	L5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Vancouver	64	40	16	1	7	204	156	88	18-6-0-4	22-10-1-2	6-1-1-2	L2
d-Detroit	64	42	19	1	2	202	151	87	26-3-1-1	16-16-0-1	7-2-0-1	W1
d-Phoenix	63	33	21	3	6	166	156	75	17-10-2-2	16-11-1-4	9-0-0-1	W6
St. Louis	63	39	17	1	6	161	126	85	26-4-1-3	13-13-0-3	7-3-0-0	W3
Nashville	64	37	20	3	4	181	165	81	21-7-2-3	16-13-1-1	5-3-0-2	L1
Chicago	64	33	24	4	3	193	189	73	21-7-1-3	12-17-3-0	4-6-0-0	L3
San Jose	62	33	22	4	3	178	159	72	19-9-2-0	14-13-2-3	3-6-1-0	W1
Dallas	63	33	26	1	3	165	171	70	18-12-0-2	15-14-1-1	5-3-1-1	W4
Colorado	64	33	27	3	1	168	173	70	18-13-0-1	15-14-3-0	7-2-1-0	W4
Los Angeles	64	29	23	5	7	138	137	70	16-13-0-4	13-10-5-3	3-5-1-1	W1
Calgary	63	28	24	5	6	151	173	67	16-9-1-3	12-14-4-3	4-2-2-2	L4
Minnesota	63	28	26	2	7	139	167	65	15-11-1-3	13-15-1-4	3-6-0-1	L1
Anaheim	63	27	26	4	6	161	178	64	16-13-2-0	11-13-2-6	6-2-0-2	L1
Edmonton	62	25	31	2	4	167	184	56	16-11-2-2	9-20-0-2	4-5-1-0	W1
Columbus	63	18	38	2	5	146	212	43	11-18-1-2	7-20-1-3	3-6-1-0	L3

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Pittsburgh at Dallas
Toronto at Chicago
St. Louis at Edmonton
Buffalo at Anaheim
Tuesday's results
Florida 5 Toronto 3
Tampa Bay 2 Montreal 1
Phoenix 2 Vancouver 1 (SO)
Ottawa 1 Boston 0
San Jose 1 Philadelphia 0
Carolina 4 Nashville 3
Los Angeles 4 Minnesota 0
Washington 3 N.Y. Islanders 2 (OT)
Detroit 5 Columbus 2
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
New Jersey at Boston, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Montreal, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Florida at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Columbus at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Calgary at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
St. Louis at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Buffalo at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
New Jersey at Washington, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Calgary at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

TUESDAY

HURRICANES 4, PREDATORS 3

First Period
1. Nashville, C.Smith 12 (Halischuk, Bourque) 2:42
Penalties — Hillen Nash (holding stick) 9:16, Legwand Nash (high-sticking) 19:00.
Second Period
2. Carolina, McBain 7 (Stewart) 5:17
3. Nashville, C.Wilson 15, 12:31
4. Carolina, E.Staal 19 (Skinner, Jokinen) 13:04 (pp)
5. Carolina, Brent 9 (Skinner, E.Staal) 17:24 (pp)
Penalties — Nashville bench (too many men; served by C.Wilson) 0:55, A.Kostitsyn Nash (hooking) 12:52, Weber Nash (hooking) 17:13, Allen Car (slashing) 19:21.
Third Period
6. Carolina, Allen 1 (E.Staal) 1:28
7. Nashville, Bourque 4 (Tootoo, Legwand) 2:18
Penalty — Fisher Nash (hooking) 8:50.
Shots on goal

Nashville	7	6	16	—29
Carolina	13	13	7	—33

Goal — Nashville: Lindback (L,2-7-0); Carolina: Ward (W,22-18-10).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Nashville: 0-1; Carolina: 2-6.
Referees — Paul Devorski, Stephane Auger.
Linesmen — Anthony Sericolo, Jay Sharrers.
Attendance — 13,595 (18,680) at Raleigh, N.C.

TUESDAY

SHARKS 1, FLYERS 0

First Period
1. San Jose, Clowe 11 (Thornton, Burns) 1:22
Penalty — Winchester SJ (roughing) 20:00.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — White SJ (delay of game) 4:35, Voracek Pha (hooking) 7:45.
Third Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — None.
Shots on goal

Philadelphia	10	7	9	—26
San Jose	11	6	6	—23

Goal — Philadelphia: Bryzgalov (L,22-13-6); San Jose: Niemi (W,25-15-6). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Phila: 0-2; San Jose: 0-1.
Att. — 17,562 (17,562) At San Jose, Calif.

COYOTES 2, CANUCKS 1 (SO)

First Period
1. Vancouver, Edler 8 (Salo, D.Sedin) 14:56 (pp)
Penalties — Bieksa Vcr (high-sticking) 1:08, Vrbata Pho (holding) 8:55, Lapierre Vcr (interference) 12:08, Rozsival Pho (hooking) 14:46.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Hansen Vcr, Aucoin Pho (slashing) 8:18, Tanev Vcr (tripping) 11:03.
Third Period
2. Phoenix, Whitney 19 (Yandle, Aucoin) 9:43
Penalties — Hanzal Pho (hooking) 1:18, Kassian Vcr (hooking) 13:04.
Overtime — No Scoring.
Penalties — None.
Shootout — Phoenix wins 2-0
Van (0) — Edler, miss; Raymond, miss. **Pho** (2) — Whitney, goal; Vrbata, miss; Boedker, goal.
Shots on goal

Vancouver	12	8	15	5	—40
Phoenix	12	12	11	0	—35

Goal — Vancouver: C.Schneider (L,14-5-1); Phoenix: Smith (W,29-14-7). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Vancouver: 1-3; Pho: 0-4.
Att. — 16,691 (17,135) at Glendale, Ariz.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Malkin, Pgh	37	41	78
Stamkos, TB	44	32	76
Giroux, Pha	23	49	72
Spezza, Ott	28	43	71
Kessel, Tor	32	35	67
Karlsson, Ott	15	51	66
H.Sedin, Vcr	13	53	66
D.Sedin, Vcr	28	36	64
Lupul, Tor	24	40	64
Neal, Pgh	30	31	61
Eberle, Edm	28	33	61
Tavares, NYI	25	36	61
Kovalchuk, NJ	25	35	60
Hossa, Chi	24	36	60
Pominville, Buf	23	36	59
St. Louis, TB	22	37	59
Datsyuk, Det	16	43	59
Parenteau, NYI	15	44	59
Thornton, SJ	14	45	59
Hartnell, Pha	30	28	58
Elias, NJ	19	39	58
Ra.Whitney, Phx	19	39	58
Toews, Chi	29	28	57
Eriksson, Dal	21	34	55
Selanne, Ana	21	34	55
Moulson, NYI	27	27	54
E.Staal, Car	19	35	54
Kopitar, LA	18	36	54
Vrbata, Phx	30	23	53
Gaborik, NYR	29	24	53
Couture, SJ	27	25	52

Last night's games not included

TENNIS

ATP

DUBAI CHAMPIONSHIPS

At Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Singles — Second Round
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Sergiy Stakhovsky, Ukraine, 7-6 (5), 6-3.
Roger Federer (2), Switzerland, def. Feliciano Lopez, Spain, 7-5, 6-3.
Andy Murray (3), Britain, def. Marco Chiudinelli, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-4.
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (4), France, def. Lukas Rosol, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4.
Tomas Berdych (5), Czech Republic, def. Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, 6-1, 6-2.
Mikhail Youzhny, Russia, def. Mardy Fish (6), United States, 6-2, 7-6 (0).
Janko Tipsarevic (7), Serbia, def. Flavio Cipolla, Italy, 6-7 (2), 6-1, 6-1.
Juan Martin del Potro (8), Argentina, def. Andrey Golubev, Kazakhstan, 6-4, 6-2.

DELRAY BEACH INTERNATIONAL

At Delray Beach, Fla.
Singles — Second Round
John Isner (1), United States, def. Ryan Sweeting, United States, 6-3, 6-4.
Marinko Matosevic, Australia, def. Alex Bogomolov Jr. (6), Russia, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3.
Ernests Gulbis, Latvia, def. Steve Darcis, Belgium, 6-7 (6), 6-1, 6-3.

ATP-WTA

MEXICAN OPEN

At Acapulco, Mexico
Men's Singles — Second Round
Nicolas Almagro (2), Spain, def. Benoit Paire, France, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Santiago Giraldo, Colombia, def. Marcel Granollers (7), Spain, 6-4, 6-3.
Fernando Verdasco (8), Spain, def. Juan Ignacio Chela, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2.
Carlos Berlocq, Argentina, def. Potito Starace, Italy, 6-1, 6-4.
Women Singles — Second Round
Roberta Vinci (1), Italy, def. Stephanie Foretz Gacon, France, 7-5, 6-4
Irina-Camelia Begu (4), Romania, def. Anna Tatishvili, Georgia, 6-3, 6-1.
Estrella Cabeza Candela (7), Spain, def. Melinda Czink, Hungary, 6-4, 7-6 (5).

WTA

MALAYSIAN OPEN

At Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Singles — Second Round
Petra Martic (5), Croatia, def. Kurumi Nara, Japan, 6-2, 3-6, 6-0.
Hsieh Su-Wei, Taiwan, def. Casey Dellacqua, Australia, 6-1, 7-5.

SOCCER

EXHIBITION

Croatia 1 Sweden 3
England 2 Netherlands 3
Greece 1 Belgium 1
Italy 0 United States 1
Germany 1 France 2
Poland 0 Portugal 0
At Limassol, Cyprus
Armenia 3 **Canada 1**

LACROSSE

NLL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
Philadelphia	7	4	3	.571	79	89	—
Toronto	7	4	3	.571	85	82	—
Rochester	8	3	5	.375	102	102	1½
Buffalo	6	2	4	.333	70	76	1½

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
Colorado	7	6	1	.857	93	94	—
Calgary	7	5	2	.714	95	75	1
Minnesota	7	4	3	.571	88	81	2
Edmonton	6	2	4	.333	64	61	3½
Washington	7	1	6	.143	65	91	5

Saturday's games
All times Eastern
Rochester at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Washington at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Friday, Mar. 9
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Edmonton, 9 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

MLB

LEAGUE OFFICE—Suspended free agent minor league LHP Justin Dowdy 50 games for refusing to take a drug test.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with C Bryan Anderson, RHP Mitchell Boggs, 3B Matt Carpenter, OF Adron Chambers, RHP Maikel Cleto, OF Allen Craig, C Tony Cruz, 2B Daniel Descalso, RHP Brandon Dickson, RHP Chuckie Fick, LHP Sam Freeman, 3B David Freese, 2B Tyler Greene, 1B Mark Hamilton, OF Jon Jay, OF Erik Komatsu, 2B Pete Kozma, RHP Lance Lynn, RHP Adam Ottavino, RHP Adam Reifer, OF Shane Robinson, LHP Marc Rzepczynski, RHP Fernando Salas and RHP Eduardo Sanchez on one-year contracts.

FOOTBALL

CFL

CALGARY STAMPEDERS—Named Rick Campbell defensive coordinator.
WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS—Re-signed OL Andre Douglas.

HOCKEY

NHL

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Assigned F Pierre-Cedric Labrie, F Trevor Smith & D Evan Oberg to Norfolk (AHL). Recalled D Keith Aulie from Norfolk.

AHL

BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS—Agreed to terms with D Russ Sinkewich.

SOCCER

MLS

L.A. GALAXY—Signed G Bill Gaudette. Waived G Nick Noble.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

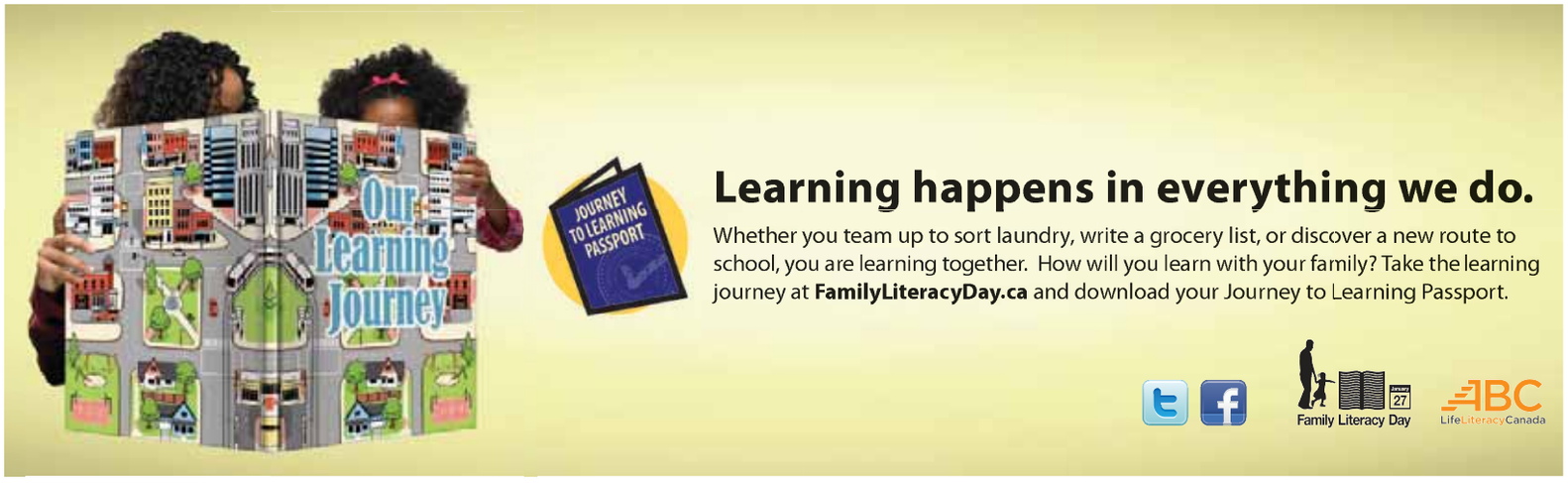
	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Miami	27	7	.794	—
d-Chicago	28	8	.778	—
Indiana	22	12	.647	5
d-Philadelphia	21	15	.583	7
Orlando	23	13	.639	5
Atlanta	20	15	.571	7½
Boston	17	17	.500	10
New York	18	18	.500	10
Milwaukee	14	21	.400	13½
Cleveland	13	20	.394	13½
Detroit	12	25	.324	16½
New Jersey	11	25	.306	17
Toronto	10	24	.294	17
Washington	7	28	.200	20½
Charlotte	4	29	.121	22½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	28	7	.800	—
d-San Antonio	24	10	.706	3½
d-L.A. Clippers	20	12	.625	6½
Houston	21	14	.600	7
L.A. Lakers	20	14	.588	7½
Dallas	21	15	.583	7½
Memphis	20	15	.571	8
Portland	18	16	.529	9½
Denver	18	17	.514	10
Minnesota	18	17	.514	10
Utah	15	18	.455	12
Golden State	14	18	.438	12½
Phoenix	14	20	.412	13½
Sacramento	12	22	.353	15½
New Orleans	8	26	.235	19½

d — division leaders ranked in top four positions regardless of record.

Last night's results
Orlando 102 Washington 95
Oklahoma City 92 Philadelphia 88
Golden State 85 Atlanta 82
Boston 102 Milwaukee 96
Detroit 109 Charlotte 94
New York 120 Cleveland 103
Memphis 96 Dallas 85
Toronto at New Orleans
Portland at Denver
Houston at Utah
Chicago at San Antonio
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers
Tuesday's results
Boston 86 Cleveland 83
Indiana 102 Golden State 78
Philadelphia 97 Detroit 68
Chicago 99 New Orleans 95
Houston 88 Toronto 85
Milwaukee 119 Washington 118
New Jersey 93 Dallas 92
Sacramento 103 Utah 96
Minnesota 109 L.A. Clippers 97
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Oklahoma City at Orlando, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Miami at Portland, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Memphis at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Houston, 8 p.m.
Dallas at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Miami at Utah, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.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‘Ready to take it to the next level’

Jays’ Romero still on rise after bumpy road to big leagues Left-hander now undisputed staff ace in Toronto

It was a challenging climb to the top for Blue Jays pitcher Ricky Romero.

Expectations were high for the first-round pick, who toiled in the minors for years before breaking through at the major-league level in 2009.

The team was patient with the now 27-year-old left-hander and it paid off.

“Now that I look back at it, I’m thankful that I went through those times,” Romero said Wednesday in Dunedin, Fla. “Being in double-A for two-and-a-half years, I learned a lot about myself as a person.... I was able to learn to deal with failure.”

There were plenty of trying times after the Los Angeles native was taken sixth overall in the 2005 amateur draft. He struggled with a 16-23 record in Toronto’s minor-league system.

But the Blue Jays felt he was ready for a look in 2009 and in 29 starts as a rookie, Romero posted a solid 13-9 mark with a 4.30 earned-run average.

“When I got to the big leagues, I wasn’t going to let one bad start get to me or get to my head,” Romero said. “It was just move on to the next one.”

Manager John Farrell said it’s not uncommon for first-rounders to face challenges in the minors.

“Everyone assumes they’re going to get to the big leagues as a first-rounder so when they finally get there, they somewhat relax and say, ‘OK, I’ve made it to where my draft number has said I should be,’” he said.

“And then things come out.”

Romero continued to make strides in 2010, going 14-9 and trimming his ERA to 3.73. He was signed to a long-term contract that summer and Romero’s ascent to staff ace was complete when he was named the opening day starter last year.

Romero went on to post a 15-11 record with a 2.92 ERA in 2011, his best campaign yet.

The six-foot, 215-pound left-hander often jokes around with teammates and management types alike, spitting sunflower seeds with abandon wherever he goes. Romero likes to keep the mood rather light but he is serious when he needs to be and is ready to be the staff’s workhorse.

A big grin spreads across his face when asked about the upcoming season.

“You see the determination and the work that we’re putting in,” he said. “We’re ready to take it to the next level.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ Jays left-hander Ricky Romero pitches in Tuesday’s live batting practice at spring training in Dunedin, Fla.

Early arms race

Ricky Romero anchors a starting rotation that is still very much unsettled.

- Brandon Morrow is likely the No. 2 starter with Brett Cecil, Henderson Alvarez and Dustin McGowan early favourites for the next three slots.
- “We need everybody to have a career year,” said Jays GM Alex Anthopoulos. “We just need everybody to be solid and play to the ability that they have, and I think we’re going to have a great team.”

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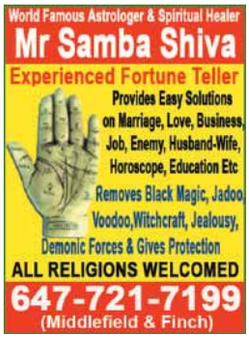
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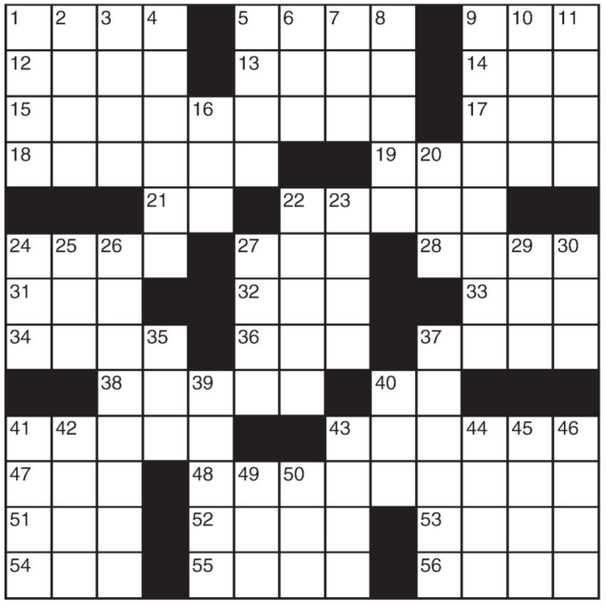
Crossword



Across

1 Airport schedule data (Abbr.)
5 Mop the deck
9 Kimono closer
12 Anger
13 Sit for a photo
14 Pal of Wynken and Blynken
15 Ancient Mariner's burden
17 Right angle
18 Theatrical
19 American emblem
21 Performing
22 Mythical lecher
24 Geek
27 — capita
28 Billions of years
31 Away from WSW
32 Raw rock
33 Potential syrup
34 Probability
36 Eggs
37 Wan
38 Hidden supply
40 — usual
41 One of The Donald's exes
43 Snare
47 Venusian vessel?
48 Colonial sewer
51 "— Doubtfire"
52 Island neckwear
53 Arctic diving birds
54 "Mayday!"
55 Ticklish Muppet
56 For fear that

Down

1 Historic periods
2 Pinball no-no
3 Actress Jessica
4 Neptune or Poseidon
5 Nimble
6 Court
7 Fool
8 Surround
9 144 units
10 Weevil's morsel
11 Not busy
16 Coffee break hour
20 Favorable vote
22 Wait on
23 Vicinity
24 Ultramodernist
25 Conclusion
26 Relief provider
27 Milne bruin
29 "Unh-unh"
30 Agent
35 Actor Mineo
37 Star-related
39 Larry the — Guy
40 Whatever number
41 "— the word"
42 Roundish hairstyle
43 Old U.S. gas brand
44 Libertine
45 Requests
46 "Hey, you!"
49 Conger, for one
50 Quarterback Tebow

▶ Yeterday's answer

H	Y	P	O		D	V	R		A	P	P	S
A	E	O	N		I	I	I		V	A	L	E
P	A	R	T	I	S	A	N		E	R	I	E
S	H	E	A	T	H		G	A	R	T	E	R
			P	E	R		S	L	A	Y		
A	L	P		M	A	P		A	G	I	L	E
B	O	A	T		G	E	E		E	N	I	D
C	Y	R	U	S		A	N	T		G	T	O
		T	R	O	D		G	U	T			
G	L	E	N	N	E		A	F	R	A	I	D
E	U	R	O		P	A	R	T	I	C	L	E
E	A	R	N		O	D	D		T	H	I	N
S	U	E	S		T	O	E		E	Y	E	S

Sudoku

		5	7		2			
	2					1	7	
4	3				9	8		
6		3	2				9	
				7				
	8				5	6		4
		8	1				4	3
	7	9					6	
			3		6	2		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

5	6	8	3	7	2	4	1	9
2	9	3	1	4	8	5	6	7
4	7	1	6	5	9	3	2	8
6	4	2	9	8	3	7	5	1
3	8	5	7	1	6	9	4	2
7	1	9	4	2	5	6	8	3
9	2	6	5	3	1	8	7	4
8	5	7	2	9	4	1	3	6
1	3	4	8	6	7	2	9	5

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

YOU, All of my life I have tried to find someone who could see the world through my eyes. I thought I walked this earth alone until I met you. **M**

Lady Gaga
Thank you for always being there and strong for us Little Monsters. You give me hope and courage. Congratulations on the Born This Way Foundation!!! PAWS UP! **LADY ALA**

meme, when i first saw you walk by me i thought to myself " i need you a.s.a.p over there" but i was to shy of a guy because you where to much and so was work. so here i am today giving you a kiss; TC!!!
BILLY

Doctor what can i do? why does it have to be like that?
CURE ME

Today 5°/-1° Cloudy 40%
Friday 7°/1° Showers 40%
Winning could be in your forecast! Visit us online for chances to WIN at theweathernetwork.com/contests
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
If you can't get excited about what you have planned to do today then, obviously, you should be doing something else.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
All those worries and woes you have been carrying around with you suddenly seem irrelevant.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
You can be quite sensitive to mood changes in your environment and that skill will be useful today.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22
A surge of negative cosmic activity makes you believe that certain people are against you. They're not. You need to lighten up and smile.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
Stop trying to control everything that happens and let fate guide you. That applies to all areas but in particular to joint financial issues.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
Today's cosmic influences will encourage you to be open about your feelings — but not so open that your heart rules your head entirely.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
If someone approaches you with an idea or proposal today, don't turn them down flat. Listen.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Keep routine tasks to a minimum and don't worry if you fall behind in your schedule. Be flexible.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Others may be hopping from one foot to the other in anger today but you cannot be bothered.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
It's good that you don't take what others believe as a personal insult to your own values. Be open.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Something is going to happen whether you like it or not, and you know it. So why are you still fighting the future? Adapt yourself.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
Have you been making use of your skills? If you are honest, you will admit you have fallen a bit short lately. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

MICHAEL CONROY/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVID GOLDMAN/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

NEED A RIDE?
Read metrodrive every Wednesday.

Having Trouble Sleeping with Depression?
If you are: Between the ages of 21 and 64, and have both depression and trouble falling or staying asleep at night, you may be eligible to participate in a treatment study at the Ryerson Sleep & Depression Lab.
Compensation up to $600
For more information call: Olya at 416-979-5000 Ext. 2185
RYERSON UNIVERSITY

AIR MILES® SUPER BONUS *EVENT*

metro

March 2-8, over
1,600 BONUS AIR MILES reward miles
available to be earned on select products.†

LCBO

February 26 – March 31, over
3,050 BONUS AIR MILES reward miles
available to be earned on select products in-store.††

Rexall™ Pharma Plus®
A pharmacy first.

March 2-8, over
400 BONUS AIR MILES reward miles
available to be earned on select products.†††

RONA

March 2-4, earn
2x the AIR MILES reward miles
on any purchase of $40 or more.‡

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE

March 2-4, earn
10 BONUS AIR MILES reward miles
when you spend $50 or more. No coupon required.‡‡

OVER 4,500 BONUS REWARD MILES AVAILABLE TO BE EARNED! OFFERS END SOON

AIR MILES® Travel and More

For more information, go to airmiles.ca/superbonus

†On selected products only, from March 2-8, 2012. Available at select Metro locations in Ontario, excluding Thunder Bay. Excludes tobacco products, Western Union, lottery, transit tickets, gift card purchases, prescription, prescription services and other professional pharmacy services. Some conditions apply. See in store for full details. ††Bonus AIR MILES reward miles available on selected products from February 26 – March 31, 2012 at the LCBO. While quantities last. Offer subject to change without notice. See store for details. †††Offer subject to change without notice. AIR MILES Base and Bonus offers exclude prescriptions, products containing codeine, postal service, stamps, Gift Card Express, Rexall Pharma Plus Gift Cards, lottery, transit tickets and taxes. Offer valid at Participating Rexall™ and Rexall™ Pharma Plus locations only in the province of Ontario, excluding the region of Thunder Bay and Western Provinces. Rexall™ is a registered trademark of Rexall Brands Corp, and Pharma Plus® is a registered trademark of Pharma Plus Drugmarts Ltd., members of the Katz Group of Companies. ‡Excluding taxes and the purchase of gift cards. Offer valid from March 2-4, 2012 at participating RONA stores. Cannot be combined with any other offer, with the exception of Bonus offers on products. Bonus offer coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Bonus offer applies to the total base reward miles earned on qualifying purchase amount. Some conditions apply. Details in store. ‡‡Bonus AIR MILES offer is valid March 2-4, 2012 at all Ontario locations when you present your Collector Card at the time of purchase. Offer not valid on online purchases. No coupon required. Valid for a minimum purchase of $50 in a single transaction, net of refunds and exclusive of taxes, discounts, and gift card purchases. Offer cannot be combined with any other AIR MILES Bonus offer. This is an exclusive offer and is non-transferable. The Children's Place reserves the right to change or cancel the offer at any time. ®™Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. Sponsor trademarks are owned by the respective Sponsor or authorized for their use in Canada.